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#19 / JULY-AUGUST 2010

Together

magazine

GLORIOUS CANNES, GLAMOROUS SUMMER

MICK JAGGER
A Stone in exile?

**PALME D'OR
WINNER**
Exclusive interview

ALEX COX
British film expert

**BELGIAN EU
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Back in business?





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Cannes-tastic!

Cannes is one of those places where you feel anything could happen. Away from the glitz and glamour of La Croisette and its famous red carpet, a whole industry throbs in the background.

In such a city of movers and shakers, a place which seems practically never to sleep and a town in which new stars are born, *Together* is right at home. To save you the trouble of trekking the thousand-odd kilometres to Cannes, we selflessly ventured there to bring you the very best in fashion shows, private parties and everything you might expect from the hardest working (and hardest partying) magazine in Brussels.

Our man Federico Grandesso had a hard time pretending he was on business, all the while reporting on a series of glamorous events, including the **AMFAR Gala** and **Naomi Campbell's birthday** bash. When he wasn't doing this very strenuous and trying work, he was very busy in other areas – not only does he present us with an interview with **Mick Jagger**, in Cannes to talk about Steven Kijak's new picture *Stones in Exile* (the story of how the album *Exile on Main St.* came to be made), he also tops that by interviewing this year's Palme d'Or winner, **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**. Finally, he interrupted his busy schedule to report to us from **Monaco**.

Your editorial chiefs weren't slacking either. Champagne, a touch of class, a warm welcome and some blissful tunes awaited us aboard the **VIP Belgium** yacht. By day, **Jean-Claude Van Damme's** headquarters, by night – party time! In between the welcome

cocktails, courtesy of **Chivas** and the utter exhilaration of being handed the controls of **J Craft's** latest speedboat the *Torpedo* as it topped 40 knots in Cannes harbour, we did our best to enjoy ourselves.

Of course, it's not all parties. Closer to home, Andy Carling returns with a sideways look at how **Belgium may handle its six months as head of the EU's rotating presidency**. There's still time to get yourself in trim for the beach, too – let *Together* and **Power Plate Institute Brussels** introduce you to the latest exercise craze, with our fantastic readers giveaway.

Plus, as we know you've come to expect and enjoy by now, there's a beautiful fashion photoshoot, Kimberley Lovato's **Sensual Secrets**, and more culture, fun and frolics than you might imagine it was possible to fit in one magazine. Hopefully, it will be enough to keep you entertained until we return in September – until then, the very best wishes to you for a wonderful summer from myself and the *Together* team. *Bonnes vacances!* ☺




David Mc Gowan
Publisher



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Run VT!

Armand-Richelet Kleinberg returns with the splendours of Cannes and elsewhere.



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1. VULCANIA

A privileged insight into the leisure park devoted to the volcanoes of Auvergne – unforgettable.

2. CANNES 2010 PANORAMA

The people, the sights, the sounds.

3. PROFESSION: STAR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Meet two world-class snappers at Cannes 2010. SAI-Concept Agency

4. SWAROVSKI AT THE FESTIVAL

Together reveals Swarovski's sublime showroom at the Martinez Hotel, Cannes.

5. PIERRE & VACANCES CAP ESTEREL AGAY

Pierre & Vacances Cap Esterel offers a unique experience between the Mediterranean Sea and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.

6. CANNES 2010

Exclusive interview with the Golden Palm. 

To check out these great videos and more, go to www.together-magazine.eu/videos.shtml

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Power Plate: The new way to a new you

Together teams up with the swanky exercise arena, Power Plate Institute Brussels, to offer readers a fantastic fitness giveaway.

A Parisienne who's in love with Belgium, Murièle Bertrandias, has turned an Avenue Louise address that she opened in 2007 into nothing less than an exercise boutique – forget the straightforward decor of traditional gymnasiums, the Power Plate Institute Brussels was designed and decorated by much-renowned French architect Jean-Luc Blais.

FITNESS ON A PLATE

Central to the building's beautiful modernity are the Power Plate machines. What are they? Well, the user is positioned on a platform that sends vibrations throughout the entire body's musculature, which allows for recuperative stretching and encourages optimal blood flow. The body's tendons, muscles and overall flexibility have been proven to show improvement after only a few sessions, and the exercise system has already proved very popular in the United States and France, for the development of athletes and even astronauts.

Power Plate can also prove invaluable for those of us with more, shall we say, 'sedentary' lifestyles, as it helps fight cellulitis, supports weight-loss programmes and simply improves overall physical conditioning.

The aim of the Power Plate Institute Brussels is to provide a training schedule for each client, assisted by a specialized personal coach, who will help them to set goals, enjoy the exercises and evolve according to changing needs - all of

which can be achieved with as few as two 20-minute meetings per week. Thanks to the optimal effectiveness of the machines, similar levels of exercise to an hour's traditional gym workout can be achieved in just ten minutes!

THE PRIZE

Together has joined forces with Power Plate Institute Brussels to offer 13 lucky readers the chance to win ten Power Plate sessions, accompanied by a fully qualified coach (each prize worth 300€). All you have to do is send your answer to the question below, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to info@togethermedia.eu, labelling your email **Power Plate Competition**. The deadline for all entries is 31st August 2010, when the winners will be selected at random. Good luck!

What is your favourite article in this edition of *Together*? ☺

Power Plate Institute Brussels
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www.institute-bruxelles.be

Competition organized under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request.

Organizer: **Together Magazine**, Boulevard Saint-Michel 47, 1040 Brussels.



Big names on their way

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Stars set to shine in summer.

RUNNERS FOR BRUSSELS

Important names are on track to attend the 2010 Belgacom Memorial Van Damme, which will take place in Brussels on 27th August in the Roi Baudouin Stadium. The athletic track and field grand prix meeting will conclude the brand new IAAF Diamond League, and will see a 100-metre 'dream race'. It will be held on the stadium's brand new super-fast race track Mondo, featuring **Tyson Gay**, **Asafa Powell** and the master, **Usain Bolt**.
www.memorialvandamme.be



WTO ON PANEL

World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General **Pascal Lamy** will be in Brussels on 30th June to attend the European Business Summit 2010. Lamy will speak at the **Trading for New Growth** session during the summit, along with with UPS International President **Daniel Brutto**, European Trade Commissioner **Karel De Gucht**, U.S. Permanent Representative to the WTO **Michael Punke**, and Chinese Ambassador to the WTO **Sun Zhenyu**. The debate will focus on how to help the business world overcome protectionism.
www.ebsummit.eu



SHELL CEO ON FUELLING GROWTH

Royal Dutch Shell CEO **Peter Voser** will also be a key speaker at the European Business Summit 2010 on 1st July, attending the **Energy for Europe: Fuelling Growth** session.



GABRIEL DESCENDS

The Forest National in Brussels will play host to a spectacular music event on 16th September, with **Peter Gabriel** set to play live as part of a Europe-wide tour of ten concerts.
www.forestnational.be



Illustration: [illegible]



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"Glamour is something you can't bear to be without once you're used to it."

– Loretta Young, (1913-2000)

American actress

*"Every time I've been to Cannes, I've made up my mind never to return.
Every time, my vanity wins over."*

– Alan Parker (1944-)

British film director

"For every two minutes of glamour, there are eight hours of hard work."

– Jessica Savitch, (1947-1983)

American TV broadcaster and news reporter

"So, where's the Cannes Film Festival being held this year?"

– Christina Aguilera (1980-)

American pop singer and songwriter

*"Cannes is a very strange place. I tried to show up as best I could and not
to be cynical."*

– Lili Taylor (1967-)

American actress

GLORIOUS
CANNES

GLAMOROUS
SUMMER

A Stone in exile in Cannes?

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Who'd have thought it? Our man had the rare chance of bumping into a 20th- and 21st-century musical icon at the film festival to top them all. Take it away, Mr Jagger!

Meeting someone like Mick Jagger during a film (rather than music) festival may seem somewhat bizarre but, then again, I was in Cannes, so everything is pretty much 'normal'. So, happening to chance upon Mick in the Palais Stéphanie, it was obvious that following the premiere of Stephen Kijak's *Stones in Exile* (2010) during 'Directors' Fortnight', Mr Jagger was keen to talk to the press.

TRACKS OF HIS YEARS

'YOU NEED TO SEE SOMETHING OF THE PERIOD, WHICH WAS AMAZING AND I THINK THIS FILM EVOKES THAT'

The extraordinary one-hour documentary, which was made under the auspices of the star's production company Jagged Films, is about the creation of a legendary rock 'n' roll record, the tracks of which were first laid down some 38 years ago, just a few kilometres away from Cannes. The film features unseen

out-takes from public appearances by the Stones and footage from a Robert Frank 1972 documentary which was never officially released, as well as new interviews with the band, Keith Richards' former girlfriend Anita Pallenberg and musicians such as Bonny Keyes and Don Was.

The record in question is The Rolling Stones' *Exile on Main St.*, which was composed between France and California, after the band had fled England to avoid paying tax. The easy-going atmosphere in Keith Richards' seafront villa of Nellcote, which is to be found just outside the town of Villefranche-sur-Mer (a former Gestapo headquarters) was the perfect inspiration for creativity and, to announce the disc's official arrival, Mick arrives on stage looking relaxed in a swish grey jacket, white shirt and trainers, to announce: "*We were young, good-looking and stupid, now we're just stupid.*"

"*Let me tell you a little bit about how it was like,*" he continues. "*It was 1971. Nixon was in the White House. The war in Vietnam was raging. Eddy Merckx had won the Tour de France. But you won't see anything of that in the film – we simply didn't know anything about it. We were in the basement of a house in Villefranche, making a record. Now that album is a legend but, at the time, the critics were not so kind.*"





© Yvan Barbera

‘IT’S QUITE EASY, REALLY, TO RECORD ON DRUGS, IT CAN BE DONE. BUT I’M NOT SAYING NOW THAT IT’S A REALLY GREAT THING TO SMOKE POT AND SING’

PERIOD CHARM
What was the genesis of the documentary project? *“I thought it would be a good idea to make a film about it, to simply make a record isn’t enough – you need to see something of the period, which was amazing and I think this film evokes that. But I didn’t want it to be just people reminiscing. I wanted viewers to feel like they were there, living it, for an hour.”*

Time is pressing – Jagger is obviously a man in demand, so I was curious to know how he felt looking through and listening to the old material: *“When you look through a family scrapbook, you often get a really nice feeling, but you have to be professional. On the other hand, though, when you look through this stuff, you sometimes just can’t remember who the people were.”*

A bit about The Beatles, of course: *“They didn’t exist really on the scene, after 1966 – I don’t know what we thought at the time, but I think maybe we were sad.*

We had been rivals, but not at that point,” he explains.

What about drugs?: *“It’s quite easy, really, to record on drugs, it can be done. But I’m not saying now that it’s a really great thing to smoke pot and sing.”* Keith Richards’ partner, Anita Pallenberg, also features in the film, describing how the set-up degenerated somewhat as the drugs took hold, but somehow the band was able to finish the job.

Asked about The Rolling Stones’ appearance in Jean-Luc Godard’s 1968 film *Sympathy for the Devil (One Plus One)*, Jagger answers with customary swagger: *“It is a very good film – no one has ever been able to explain what it’s about, but that doesn’t matter.”*

My slot is over, and our man is leaving, but there was still time for a last question by a certain *Together* journalist: “What is your favourite movie?” After just a few seconds, Jagger answered: *“Apocalypse Now (1979) – and it came out in the same year as Exile on Main St.”* Actually Mick, it didn’t, because your album was released in 1972, but many, many thanks anyway! ☺

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Cox rocks

WRITERS: COLIN MOORS & JAMES DREW

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He was in Cannes, and in Brussels earlier in the year, to lend his stature and expertise to OffScreen 2010, www.offscreen.be, the annual film festival for all lovers of little-seen, bizarre, offbeat and intoxicating cinema. Alex Cox, British film connoisseur and director of gems such as *Repo Man* (1984), *Sid & Nancy* (1986) and *Walker* (1987) talks with *Together's* Colin Moors and James Drew.

JD: Alex, thanks so much for talking to *Together*. I suppose the first question should be whether your Cinema Master Class with students from the RITS School for Audiovisual and Performing Arts in

'ER, NO, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN "GIVING ANYTHING BACK"' [LAUGHS]

Brussels [\[www.rits.be\]](http://www.rits.be) went as well as you hoped?

Yes, it's amazing, the RITS is a very big film school, they have 650 students there, and the audience seemed more than willing to put up with me speaking for half an

hour before asking some really intelligent, perceptive questions.

JD: So, do you see appearing at such events as being a way of 'giving something back', as it were, to people who are obviously passionate about film early on in their lives?

Er, no, I have absolutely no interest in "giving anything back" [laughs] – if these people are foolish enough to want to become filmmakers, on their own heads be

it, you know? Seriously though, it's great, because you've got people there who want to make genre movies, zombie movies, who want to work in commercial cinema, and you've got those who want to do pure art, you know? So that's interesting, because you've got a chance to talk about those two worlds, the world of art and the world of commerce, how those worlds merge, and how you get into a business which is now so nepotistic, how you find your way in there.

CM: Well, as you bring it up, Alex, are you thinking about making a zombie movie yourself? I only ask as it's one of my favourite genres, and if you made one I'm sure it would be a pretty good effort.

Funnily enough, I was talking about that just the other night, but I was also looking at the fabulous Jess Franco poster on the wall at RITS, and I was thinking that I really want to make a Lesbian Vampire Spaghetti Western [laughs]...not so much obsessed perhaps with enormous breasts though.

CM: Is your MicroFeatures project, in which films have to be made for less than £100,000, a political statement as well as a cheaper way of making films?

I suppose it's both, really – Film London announced this MicroFeatures project, in which they were going to make ten of these films a year, which was perfectly feasible, and then it was postponed for a year, and then they were only going to make one or two, and I think that it just put the wind up the British Film Council, because the British Film Council are all about Hollywood studios, trying to do co-productions with the Americans, giving Lottery money to Murdoch, and so on, and all of a sudden the idea that Film London were going to be producing ten features per year, all by local filmmakers, was deeply frightening to the

British Film Council, because it's an entirely different model, a local model. It didn't depend on the British Film Council, it didn't depend on bringing big American actors over, it was a completely different and specifically local approach to filmmaking. I see this as very positive thing, because essentially it's a job-creation scheme, isn't it? It's a way of making many films cheaply, like the Italians did with their own cowboy and horror films, you're creating an awful lot of work, and the profits don't get expatriated back to the United States. I thought that MicroFeatures was potentially extremely destabilizing, in a good way [laughs].

CM: A brief mention of director Shane Meadows, because he made *Le Donk and Scor-zay-zee* (2009), which was actually very good, and all shot on one camera in five days. So that's obviously the sort of thing you are moving towards?

Yes, well, the thing is they have to be done in bulk, I mean you have to do a whole bunch of them, so for that model to work, you have to make like ten five-day films, ten 'MicroFeatures', and then there is a sort of a work continuity, from one film to another. So, maybe they only make a hundred quid, but they make a hundred quid over and over again, and then it becomes a sustainable model, and you actually start to grow an industry.

JD: You moved away from mainstream, you made your mark seemingly as the very antithesis of a 'mainstream director', and some of your political stances have disenfranchised you from the world of mainstream cinema. Do you have any regrets about that?

[Laughs] Well, I certainly regret not having more money, I think that's the only downside! No, not really – you don't really think anything through when you are young, you're just kind of jumping on stuff...things in the sixties and seventies weren't that bad, and we kind of thought that things would naturally get better, but we've all had to come to terms with the fact that, in fact, there's very little that really changes.

CM: *Repo Man*, absolutely one of my all-time favourite films – was it really about nuclear war and was that all it was about?

Yes, well, that was what was interesting for me, I mean that aspect of it – the neutron bomb in the boot, and then it kind of became an alien, a time machine, and so on. At one point it was supposed to be a nuclear bomb, and then when

they opened the boot it would destroy Los Angeles, but then it changed.

CM: As I say, I've loved the film for years, I saw it at the right time, and it had a great soundtrack and a lot of humour, but the only thing that's ever really perplexed me is why the omnipresent Magic Tree Air Fresheners?

Oh, because I had worked for a repo man driver, and he told me that every one of the cars that he had to steal, take back to his office, you'd find one of these 'Christmas Trees' in it, and it was true, you had guys, just like Miller in the film, who actually collected these things, you know? So it was fascinating that this was just a piece of repo 'lore' which we put in the film, but it was also true.

CM: And was it you that coined the expression 'melon farmer' (which has even been adopted as the title for an anti-film censorship website) as a substitute for 'motherfucker' for the TV edit of your film?

Yes, the first use of the expression 'melon farmer' was for the cleaned-up TV version of *Repo Man*, I think it was actually Del Zamora ('Lagarto') who came up with 'melon farmer', because he had been paid to revoice the dialogue, but I wasn't on set that day – for me, I think that on the DVD of *Repo Man*, they should have two audio tracks, the original dialogue and the cleaned-up version, and let viewers decide. In fact, after I did *Repo Man* and *Sid & Nancy* I was actually a bit sick of 'fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck', so in *Straight to Hell* (1987), my next film, nobody swore once, but when the film played in the United States, it got an 'R' certificate, on the basis of bad language, and the only thing I can think is that it's the way Shane McGowan talks, and the censors just assumed he was swearing [laughs].

JD: Finally, *Together's* standard question – what would you say is the secret of your success?

[Looks wistfully over at his wife and collaborator Tod Davies, who has also been present during the interview] Why, the love of a good woman, naturally! [laughs]

CM: Thank you so much, Alex – you have made our day. ☺

For more information about Alex Cox's life and work, check out his website at www.alexcox.com and, for all the very best in cinema reviews, go to Colin and James's www.picturenose.com.

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To Cannes, with chivalry

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Here at *Together Towers*, to launch our Cannes masterpiece, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made our trip such a stellar experience.

There are many ways of getting to Cannes from Brussels - we chose to split up and let both the train and plane take the strain.

The choice for our publisher's flight down was **Air France**, flying out of Lille, which is only a one-hour drive from Brussels, with a great, recently renovated compact airport that turned out to be a very wise choice. No queues at the airport, good-value easy parking and excellent service.

Colin and I took advantage of **SNCB's** great service, but we strongly recommend that before getting on your train, you take the chance to stop off at **Karsmakers**, to be found at Rue de Trèves 20, Place du Luxembourg. The best coffee in town, fresh juices,

scrumptious bagels and don't forget the home-made pastries by Catherine, and they have recently opened a garden terrace.

Seven hours, to be fair, is a long time to spend on a train, but it flew by – before we knew it, we were hurtling through stunning Riviera views, and we were in Cannes.

Our first stop for accommodation was the **1835 White Palm Hotel**, to be found at one end of Cannes' stunning promenade, La Croisette, and we had the pleasure of being welcomed by General Manager Gilles Stellardo in his resolutely stylish, extremely comfortable location.

Named after the year when Cannes first became very popular internationally as a resort (with the arrival of the English, coincidentally), the White Palm is a genuinely peaceful, soothing place to rest one's head, and the breakfast was tremendous too. Bravo!

So, after a smashing time in the 1835, we decided to join our colleagues at the **Pierre & Vacances Villa Francia**. Comfortable apartments, a huge swimming pool and stunning views of Cannes bay were most appreciated.

A special thank you must also go to the lovely **Marianne Thoumsin of J Craft Boats**, (www.j-craftboats.com) who gave us all an unforgettable nautical adventure, and to **Chivas Regal** whisky, whose **Living With Chivalry** campaign formed the backdrop to Cannes 2010.

Truly, chivalry was what it was all about – thank you, to our partners. Your contributions made our time in Cannes a dream.

Without further ado, we now hand you over to our writers, who will provide a marvellous taste of what went down in Cannes.

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GRACE REDEFINED



And the winners are...

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Rich, experimental works from countries with a previously limited cinematographic tradition was very much the order of the day in Cannes this year, as our correspondent reports.

Once again, Cannes confirmed its eclectic side but, considering the jury was chaired by director Tim Burton and featured unconventional actor Benicio del Toro, that probably doesn't come as much of a surprise. So, all Palme d'Or bets on the

DURING THE AWARDS CEREMONY, [ELIO] GERMANO DELIVERED A POLEMICAL ATTACK AGAINST THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CLASS

competition's main prizes, a sign of continuing Gallic quality following Laurent Cantet's Palme d'Or-winning *Entre Les Murs* in 2008 and Jacques Audiard's Grand Prix for *Un prophète* in 2009.

GOLD FOR THAILAND

But this year, the Palme d'Or went to the Thai movie *Loong Boonmee raleuk chat* (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*) by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In fact, the director is no stranger to Cannes awards – he won the 2002 Un Certain Regard Award for *Sud sanaeha* (*Blissfully Yours*) and the Jury Prize in 2004 for *Sud pralad* (*Tropical Malady*), which was also nominated for the Palme d'Or that year.

Tim Burton
© Daniele Venturelli (WireImage for Gucci)



Juliette Binoche
© Eric Ryan (Getty Images)



Javier Bardem (L) Elio Germano (R)
© Venturelli (WireImage)

With his latest, Apichatpong investigates the concept of reincarnation through the character of Uncle Boonmee who meets the ghost of his deceased wife and his long-lost son, entering a mysterious cave and realizing that, in his first life, he was born there, but doesn't remember if he was human or animal.

The Grand Prix went to *Of Gods and Men* by Xavier Beauvois, which tells the sad, true story of eight Christians monks living in peace with the Muslim community in the Algerian mountains until fundamentalist violence erupts. For the Jury Prize, African (Chad) cinema was rewarded, with Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's *Un homme qui crie* (*A Screaming Man*), a simple, vibrant story of the relationship between father and son during the country's civil war.

POLITICS ON THE PODIUM

Perhaps one of the biggest dilemmas facing the jury was the Best Actor Award, which

was eventually shared by Javier Bardem for *Biutiful* and Elio Germano for *La nostra vita*.

And the surprises were not finished – during the awards ceremony, Germano delivered a polemical attack against the Italian political class, while politics was also the order of the day for Juliette Binoche, who was awarded Best Actress for her performance in *Certified Copy*.

In her speech, she urged the liberation of Iranian movie director Jafar Panahi, who is believed to be on hunger strike following his detainment in jail merely for having expressed his opinions. Elsewhere, Best Director went to Mathieu Amalric for *Tournée* (*On Tour*), which tells of a French producer who decides to follow a group of female burlesque striptease performers on tour in France and, finally, Best Screenplay went once again to Asia for Shi (*Poetry*) by Korean director Chang-dong Lee. 🗣️

A Thai's take

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

On the day before the Cannes 2010 award ceremony, *Together* had the opportunity to talk to Apichatpong Weerasethakul, the soon-to-be recipient of the Palme d'Or for *Loong Boonmee raleuk chat* (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*) (2010). A chance to discover the deep philosophy of this gentle artist from Thailand.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: How would you define your own cinema?

AW: I make films for myself and to express my personal feelings. I believe that when I make movies, I have to make sure that it is through my movies that I really express myself, not through writing or talking to you.

How hard was the shoot for *Loong Boonmee raleuk chat*?

The difficulties came with trying to explain to the actors, some of whom were non-

professionals, exactly what I wanted. Not only the actors, but the crew members too, because the film divides into six reels, and each reel has a different tone, a different style of lighting, acting style and camera work. To explain and achieve this was quite complicated, to tell the actors, 'Okay, be natural, but not natural, like old-style acting'.

Communication was difficult – I just asked the actors to recall movies they had enjoyed, and what they remembered about them.

Movie making is a magic profession, and it is changing all the time. We worked as a family unit and, sometimes, we changed the script overnight. I think perhaps this gives the process fluidity.

What are your thoughts on the civil war in Bangkok, which involves the Red Shirts supporting the deposed Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra?

It's a class war, and it's very complicated because it's not only about underprivileged people voicing their concerns, there are also tycoons and politicians involved. It's not as simple as poor versus rich, it's more about power. It's very hard for me to fathom, because it shows how we've been manipulated by the media since we were young, and this situation has forced us to rethink our beliefs and morals.

Do you believe in reincarnation?

It's a possibility, but I cannot say one hundred per cent until there's another level of scientific proof. I think that we don't know very much about the workings of the mind – I believe in the power of meditation and I think that meditation is science. There is a progress to science, from Einstein onwards, and I believe that the next step is going to be anti-gravitational. After this will be the mind, I hope.

'THE DIFFICULTIES CAME WITH TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO THE ACTORS, SOME OF WHOM WERE NON-PROFESSIONALS, EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED'



© Stéphanie Cornfield



© Stéphanie Cornfield

What is the message of this movie?

Relax! Open your mind up and just let the images flow. People are different, they cannot be forced, and there are going to be those who shut off and those who share the sentiment. Me too, sometimes when I watch a commercial movie, I don't understand it.

What is so special about north-east Thailand?

I grew up there and it's a place that is pretty harsh. For the agricultural community, the soil and the weather are not so good, so many people migrate to Bangkok, Chiang Mai or Phuket to join the labour force. People tend to look down on the poor, because in Thailand there is a big class difference, and that has contributed to civil unrest. The area is under-represented – this movie is unique because, if it was shown in Bangkok, few people would understand it because of our local dialect. In 2008, I had to work on an art project and I travelled along the Mekong river to see the differences between now and the past, an

era that is very special to me. My parents are doctors, and they moved there when there was nothing. As doctor, after you graduate you have the choice where to go, and they chose this crazy area – they were really idealistic.

Are your films screened in Chiang Mai?

In Thailand we don't have art-house cinemas, we have only multiplexes. Even I wouldn't go to see my movies in that environment; the public expects different kinds of films there. One of my ambitions is to open an art-house cinema in Chiang Mai.

Is there another genre that attracts you?

Science fiction. I have envisaged a project called Utopia, and it's about a snow landscape, it's set in a nondescript time and involves the Starship Enterprise from Star Trek, which is abandoned in the snow. Also, I would like to see an old-generation female science fiction actress such as Brigitte Bardot to explore this landscape. 🍷

Roc the places

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Party time in Cannes – seriously, how could you miss it?

This year, the festival's big-party magnet was provided by the **Hotel Eden Roc** in the Cap d'Antibes, with six huge bashes taking place in its sumptuous surroundings.

STAR STUDDER

Beginning with the AMFAR Gala and a celebration of 100 years of Swiss watchmaking and jewellery marque De Grisogono, and not forgetting of course the Vanity Fair/Gucci party, dinners by Charles Finch and Elle-Dior and the crazy 1\$ million birthday party for Naomi Campbell, amFAR's famous red carpet offered a never-to-be-repeated fashion show, with stars such as Mick Jagger, Jennifer Lopez, Benicio del Toro, Natalie Imbruglia, Marion Cotillard, Harvey Weinstein and, inevitably, Paris Hilton.

The Gala itself raised millions for AIDS research, thanks to the amazing auction that this year included a gold-plated bottle of champagne, a monkey-shaped pendant in diamonds and gemstones, a private photo-session by Karl Lagerfeld in his private studio in Paris, complete with a signed photograph, an Audi sports car, a

'THE GALA ITSELF RAISED MILLIONS FOR AIDS RESEARCH'

pass for the Milan Fashion Week in September, a lunch with Quentin Tarantino and Harvey Weinstein, a chance to cameo in a comedy with Hugh

Jackman, Kate Winslet and Naomi Watts, and an Armani-Prive dress. Other equally impressive lots included a day with US former President Bill Clinton, which went for 220,000\$, and a trip in a fighter jet, which sold for 170,000\$.

WATCH THIS

Throughout the exclusive De Grisogono evening, the 400 guests also had their chance to admire the latest designs by Fawaz Gruosi, who used this showcase to celebrate the glamorous 10th anniversary of his Instrumento N°Uno watch collection. Charles Finch, chairman and CEO of Finch & Partners, couldn't resist *la charme* of the Riviera and organized his second annual *Finch's Quarterly Review Cannes Filmmakers Dinner*, which also provided the occasion to preview his new clothing line, Chucs, available from this summer onwards. Finch also presented French director Bertrand Tavernier with a spectacular white gold Portuguese IWC watch, to celebrate his exceptional contribution to cinema.

QUEEN NAOMI

By far the best fashion event in Cannes was the *Vanity Fair/Gucci Party*, which was co-hosted by Gucci Creative Director Frida Giannini and *Vanity Fair* Editor Graydon Carter. An intimate dinner at the Hotel du Cap was followed by a party to celebrate Martin Scorsese's work, which was also the occasion to present some exclusive pieces from Gucci's High Jewellery collection, all of which are created by Italian goldsmiths and are the epitome of impeccable craftsmanship. During the party, the best Gucci ambassador by far was Jennifer Lopez, who wore white gold Chiodo earrings featuring cognac topaz and princess cut white diamonds. Jennifer also sported a stunning Gucci pale grey Moroccan silk cocktail dress – truly, a Gucci girl.

Another event to remember was the Replay Party, which featured a private concert by Natalie Imbruglia. Mischa Barton, Francesca Versace, Afef, Margherita Missoni and Ornella Muti were also on hand to celebrate the Italian brand.



Glennina Facio, Francois Pinault, Frida Giannini, Benicio Del Toro and Salma Hayek
© Daniele Venturelli (WireImage for Gucci)



Ryan Gosling, Harvey Weinstein and Emily Blunt
© John Shearer/amfAR1 (Getty Images for amfAR)

1. Cheryl Cole and Fawaz Gruosi © Andreas Rentz (Getty Images for de Grisogono)

STYLE STARS

Another exclusive place to be was the Style Star Lounge, following its enormous success in the Venice Film Festival 2009.

2. Terry Gilliam and Martin Scorsese © Daniele Venturelli (WireImage for Gucci)

Marina Garzoni, founder and executive director of Style Star, hosted various VIP events in the venue – together with Stefano Tonchi, editor in chief of *W Magazine*, Marina honoured fashion-film pioneers with an exclusive gala dinner. Juliette Binoche, Eva Cavalli, Riccardo Tisci from Givenchy, Peter Dundas of Emilio Pucci, Carine Roitfeld from *Vogue*, Eva Riccobono and Karla Otto were all in attendance.

If you weren't yet fazed with fashion but wanted to relax in style, the Elle-Dior dinner was the perfect place. On photo-calls were Kristin Scott-Thomas, Melanie Laurent and

English model Lily Cole, enjoying a light and chic bite. Last but not least, if you really wanted to enjoy the most intense evening, Naomi Campbell's birthday bash was definitely the place to be. With strict identity checks and no camera rules for the 250 invited guests, who arrived at 19h30 for the 'Family Photo' with Naomi, who was wearing a Valentino haute couture dress, this was the place to be seen. After the opening cocktail, which saw the unveiling of two specially created drinks, the Naomito and the Campbellini, Naomi sat at the head of the main table for dinner, together with her mother, fiancée Vlad Doronin and Jennifer Lopez. After dinner, and a short speech by Grace Jones, the dance floor rocked to Black Eyed Peas – without a doubt, a night to remember. 🍷



1.



2.



Jennifer Lopez and Frida Giannini
© Daniele Venturelli (WireImage for Gucci)



© Daniele Venturelli (WireImage for Gucci)



Natalie Imbruglia
© Yvan Barbera (for Together)



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Mary J Blige © George Pimentel (FilmMagic)



Lionel Richie © Sean Gallup (Getty Images)



Diane Kruger © Daniele Venturelli (WireImage)



© Andreas Rentz (Getty Images)

JCVD's VIPs

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

In Cannes, there are yachts, and there's Jean-Claude Van Damme's yacht. It's not what you know, right?

© VIP Belgium

During the film festival, the port of Cannes is full of luxurious yachts that, as in St.Tropez during summer, are the locations for some of the very best parties. This year, however, the VIP Belgium yacht was in harbour once more – enough said.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

This year, the concept was different from 2009, as VIP's Alexandre Bodart Pinto explained to

Together: "The idea was to organize parties during the night, while during the day the yacht was the headquarters and sales office of Jean-Claude Van Damme's production company Rodin Entertainment."

While partying hard is obviously important, charity comes first, which is why, for its first party, the 45-metre yacht played host to a fundraising event for Haiti, in co-operation with the Human Trees Organization.

Obviously, a yacht party also means cool DJs – security had a really tough time stopping 'party-addicts' from gatecrashing.

The event was also enjoyed by international party-master Massimo Gargia, world-renowned for his books on how to join the jet-set. If we're talking about beautiful girls, we only have to mention the Fiesta Club, organized by Playboy-Official French Tour. In addition, Fashion TV CEO Michel Adam was aboard, along with his beautiful models, and the sexy atmosphere was only accentuated by the eagerly awaited arrival of Leslie, Tina Turner's *belle-fille*, and the customary deluge of photographers and journalists. Fashion was the *leitmotiv*, with summer 2010 Collections by Taracchi and Christian Audigier on show. To stimulate the other senses, a high-class restaurant from Brussels, Cospaia, presented a Molecular Gastronomy Discovery Night.

VIP Belgium – the last word in Belgian glamour on the exclusive Cannes party circuit. ☺

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'THE IDEA WAS TO ORGANIZE PARTIES DURING THE NIGHT, WHILE DURING THE DAY THE YACHT WAS THE HEADQUARTERS AND SALES OFFICE OF JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME'S PRODUCTION COMPANY'

SLEEK, CHIC

The bash also provided JCVD with an occasion to present his new movie, The Eagle Path and, during the same night, the 'Muscles from Brussels' also signed on the dotted line for a Thai boxing match in Las Vegas in October. JCVD, back in the ring!



All in the same boat?

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

It's official – our co-editor has not stopped grinning since he had a chance to try something for the first time in Cannes. Intrigued?



meticulous attention to detail. Their boatyard in Gotland, Sweden only builds one per month (to order) at peak output, so every craft is individual, yet finished to perfection. The steering wheel is hand-carved and made by Nardi, the makers of the wheel on the Ferrari 250 GTO on which it is styled. The deck is made from eco-friendly mahogany and is lacquered 18 times to give it the deep, rich honey glow. Add in a Bose sound system, underwater lighting, bespoke cutlery by Prince Carl Philip, red-wine-proof linen upholstery and a surprising amount of technology for a boat with such a wonderful retro feel, and you have something that leaves people only able to say one thing: "Wow".

The boating and yachting press is very complimentary about the *Torpedo*, but some refer to it as a 'tender' for servicing luxury yachts and beach-side villas. Having had the pleasure and privilege to sit behind the wheel of one of these beauties, I can confirm that the *Torpedo* is no more a service vehicle than the Lamborghini Diablo is a delivery van. Hold onto your hats, people, it's going to get technical for a short while.

When advertising people talk about an 'experience', they are often referring to a computer, film or even a washing powder, and the buyer's interaction with the product. When **J/Craft** boat builders talk about an experience, they are talking about something that leaves you exhilarated and grinning from ear to ear.

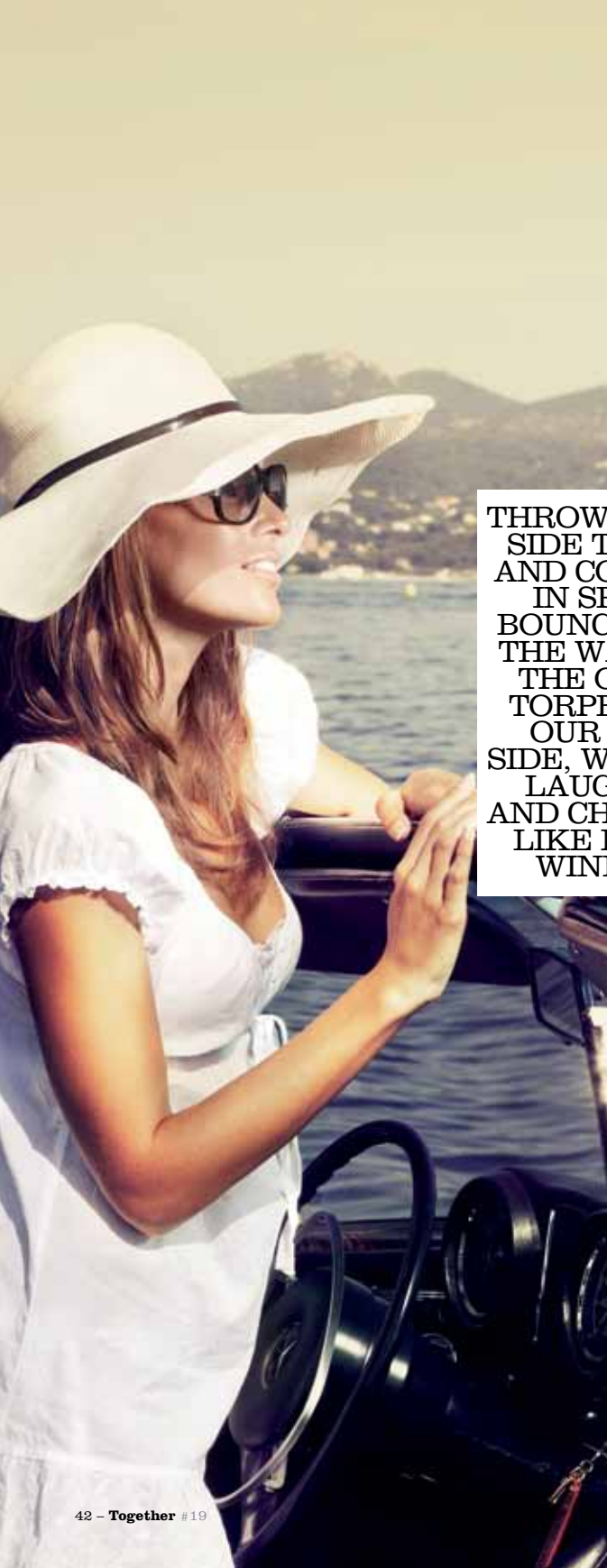
MAN, THE TORPEDO!

The J/Craft *Torpedo* is a thing of true beauty, and everything about it exudes the kind of class and breeding that only comes from



Our man Colin Moors at the wheel





POWER POINTS

The power to deliver its maximum speed of 44 knots is delivered by twin Volvo Penta IPS 500 marine engines, each one a six-cylinder, 370 horsepower beauty. The steering wheel is there for the pure pleasure of aiming the boat toward some picturesque quayside restaurant or villa, but when it comes to mooring, the Volvo IPS drive system, plus some amazingly clever J Craft technology

means that with a pop-up joystick (yes, similar to the ones you would use on an old computer game) the forty-one and a half feet of maritime excellence can be steered into the tightest spot with ease.

If I had to make an excuse for sounding like a PR person for J Craft, I wouldn't. These things really do sell themselves. I was taken out with three friends, and we were treated to a demonstration of the manoeuvrability of the Torpedo at around 40 or so

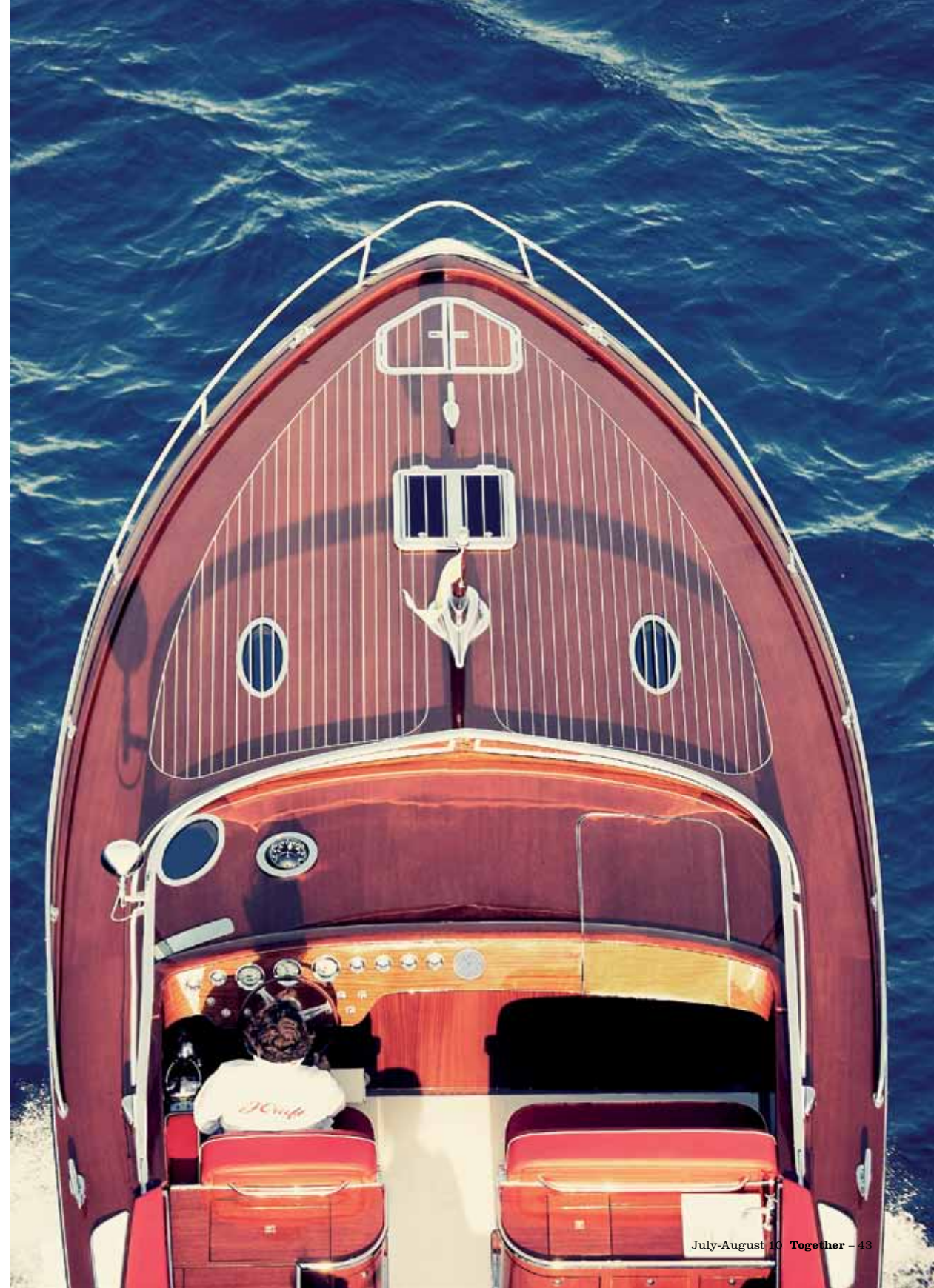
knots. Thrown from side to side and covered in spray, bounced off the wake of the other Torpedo to our port side, we were laughing and cheering like Derby winners. Then I was asked: "Would you like to take the wheel?" If ever there was a rhetorical question, this was it. Sitting in a goddess of a boat with a few friends, sun glistening on Cannes harbour, hundreds of horsepower awaiting my command – now that's what I call an experience. 🍷

J Craft Boats

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**THROWN FROM
SIDE TO SIDE
AND COVERED
IN SPRAY,
BOUNCED OFF
THE WAKE OF
THE OTHER
TORPEDO TO
OUR PORT
SIDE, WE WERE
LAUGHING
AND CHEERING
LIKE DERBY
WINNERS**



DRESS TO IMPRESS

ELEGANT ECSTASY

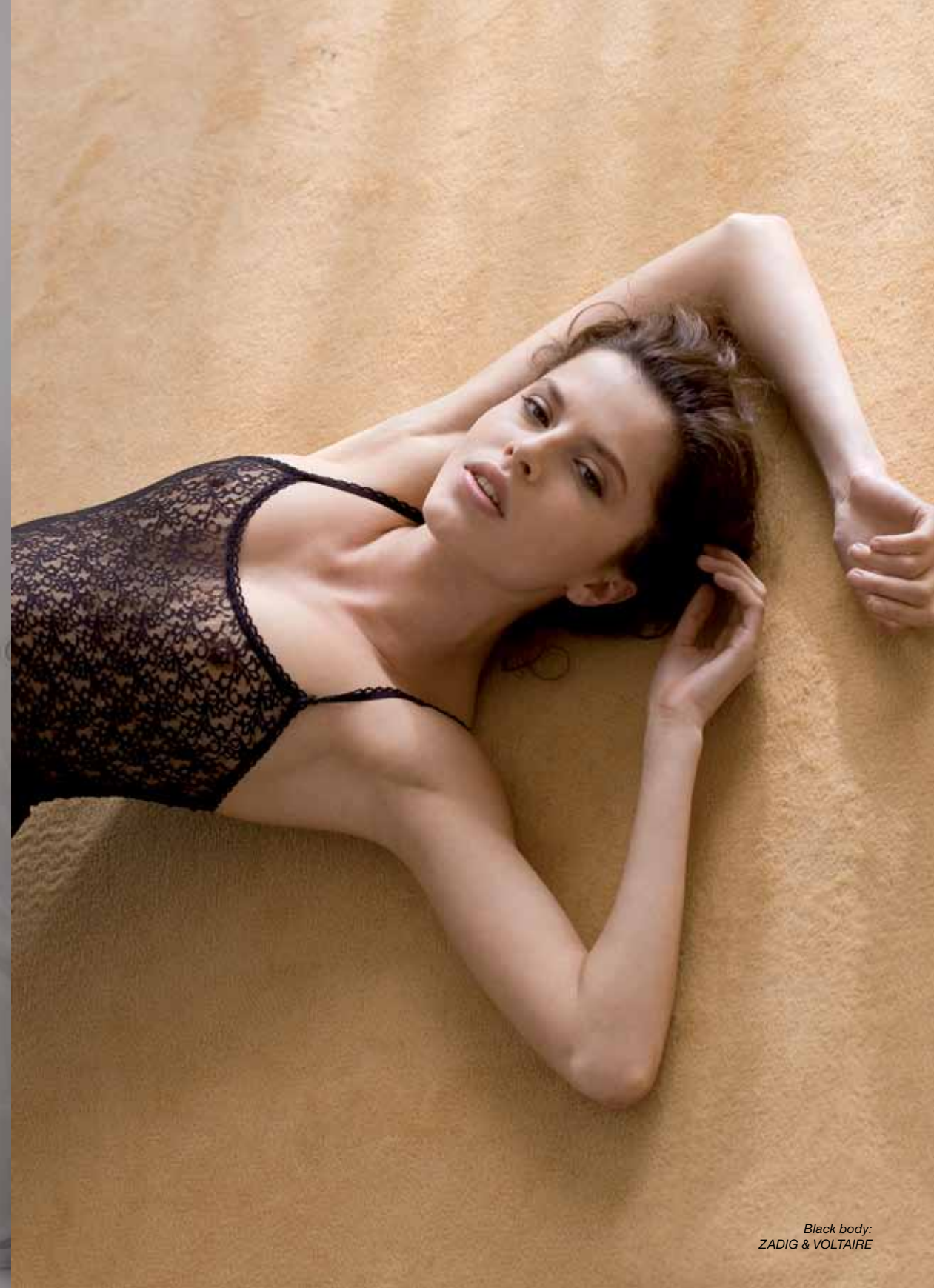
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HAIR & MAKE UP: DAVID BETTEGA FOR L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL AND YVES SAINT LAURENT - WWW.DAVIDBETTEGA.COM

MODEL: LINA SHABANI @ IMM MODELS AGENCY

Dress and shoes:
H&M



Black body:
ZADIG & VOLTAIRE



Lingerie:
LA PERLA



Top:
CHINE BELGIAN DESIGN



Black body and silver vest:
ZADIG & VOLTAIRE



Lingerie:
LA PERLA
Vest:
CHINE BELGIAN DESIGN

Must try harder?

WRITER: NATASHA ABUDARHAM

Our 'Go Get It!' specialist examines why simply making more and more effort may not always be the solution to life's problems.



Three years ago, I was in a job that was making me increasingly miserable. It didn't matter how many extra hours I worked or how many times I did as my manager asked, it still wasn't good enough.

So what did I do, give up? No, of course not, I tried even harder. But the problem was that trying harder only gave me tiny rewards that were never in line with my expectations. When I finally quit, I realized that the job I had been holding onto for all those years was never actually mine in the first place, but was rather a position that I had fallen into, and one that I hated, and I'm positive that many people will know exactly what I'm talking about.

PUT THE FUN BACK

One of the first life-coaches I had used to tell me: "Natasha, if it ain't fun, it don't get done!" and you know, she was so right. Just a little while back, I heard those words in my head again, took a look at my business and wiped out all the stuff that 'ain't fun'.

In doing so, I've managed to give myself more space, time and energy to focus on what's important and already the results are remarkable. Money seems to be seeping in from all directions, opportunities are being offered in abundance and I'm doing much more of what makes my heart sing. And, while this is happening, one thing I'm not doing is 'trying harder'.

VERY TRYING

I'm also reading a book, You Squared: A method for breakthrough success by Price Pritchett, and his message is in line with what

**SOMETIMES,
IN FACT,
INTENSIFYING
YOUR
EFFORTS
PRODUCES
NOTHING
EXCEPT
BIGGER
PROBLEMS**

I am trying to say: "Sooner or later, you're going to reach the point where you can't try any harder. It may be that your spirit flags, or that your physical and mental resources are stretched to the limit. And often, well before you come to that set of circumstances, you reach the point of diminishing return – trying harder and harder starts producing less and less. Sometimes, in fact,

intensifying your efforts produces nothing except bigger problems."

Pritchett then goes on to say: "Quit thinking about trying harder. More effort isn't the answer."

So, here's the message – you can keep doing the same thing and you can keep on trying harder, but I can guarantee it ain't gonna be fun and it ain't gonna give you the results you want.

Take a look at all parts of your life, where are you trying harder for little or no results? What can you give up today that will give you more space, time and energy? 🙌

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Posture perfect?

WRITER: RICHARD EARNEY

Our fitness expert asks whether your exercise programme is helping or harming you.

We're all different, and we need to recognize this before trying to copy someone else's workout or taking on a 'one size fits all' programme of the type that's offered in many health magazines. Have a look at your family, colleagues, partner or people in the street – although you'll notice similarities, we're all different shapes and sizes and have our own unique postural identity.

A QUESTION OF BALANCE

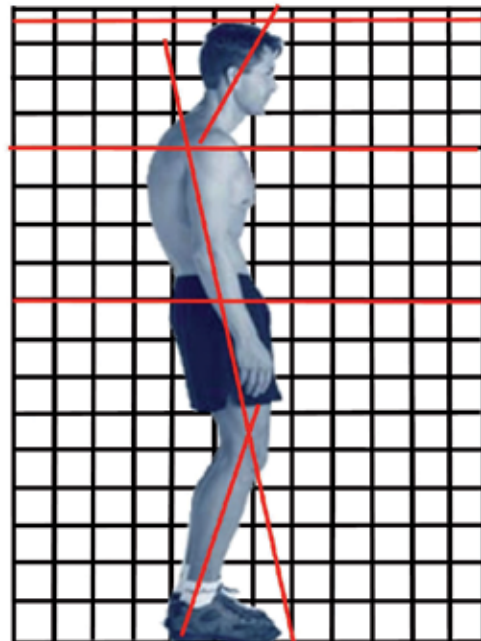
In an ideal world, perfect posture is achieved through the balanced equilibrium of muscles supporting our skeleton, holding us in an upright and functional position to perform all

movements. Unfortunately, we're faced with a 'modern day' epidemic of poor posture, which can result from hours spent at your desk, in the car or slumped on the couch at home. This can result in postures resembling that of Mr Burns from The Simpsons – not ideal, obviously. A hunched upper spine, forward head, rounded shoulders puts our joints, muscles and nervous system in a disadvantaged bio-

mechanical position. Over time, this can lead to degenerative changes in the body, decrease in sporting performance, affect breathing, digestion and can bring pain in the neck, shoulders, lower back and knees. Doesn't sound good, does it?

STEPS TO TAKE

The good news is that this can be prevented and corrected. Address your work station set-up, set a timer on your computer that reminds you to get up and move every hour – ladies, limit the amount of time you spend wearing high heels. Keep your shoulder blades set back, look up when walking and, if you're starting an exercise routine, ensure that you have an individualized specific postural assessment and corrective exercise programme from a qualified trainer, to outline stretches to address your short and tight muscles, and exercises to strengthen the weak ones. 📌



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With thanks to **Yvan Barbera** for photo and arrangement.





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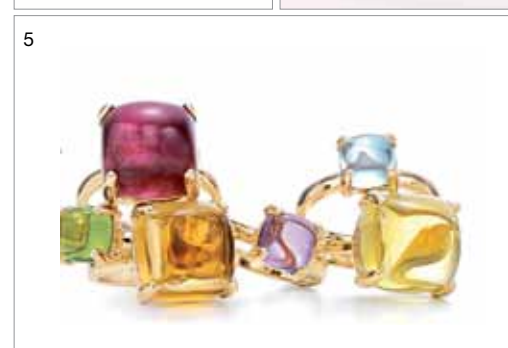
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Nice touch

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

Our expert selects another pair of gadgets to set you purring.

Since its debut, the iPhone has sold like crack cocaine, with hordes of frenzied, slaving fanboys queuing to be the first to part with 400-500€ for the privilege of walking out of the store with a pretty-looking phone with a frankly rubbish operating system and poor 3rd generation data support. Still, they look pretty, don't they? I predicted in the previous *Together* that the iPad would sell millions, despite suffering from pretty much the same afflictions as the iPhone did (I do enjoy a safe bet). But why part with hundreds of your

hard-earned euro for something unfinished, when you can have something that is not only stylish, but functional too?

**'LIKE A DEUS
EX MACHINA,
THE HTC DESIRE
WILL SOLVE
ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS
AT A STROKE,
WILL MAKE
YOU MORE
ATTRACTIVE
AND WILL
EVEN FIND
THE COMB YOU
LOST BEHIND
THE SOFA LAST
MONTH'**

AN OBJECT OF DESIRE

Enter the HTC Desire, stage right. Like a *deus ex machina* it will solve all your problems at a stroke, will make you more attractive and will even find the comb you lost behind the sofa last month. OK, probably not the comb part, but it is a very nice piece of machinery, nonetheless.

for the Android operating system. Android is free and Open Source software, the only things HTC add are a few of their own applications. Because it's neither Windows Mobile nor iPhone OS, there are very few restrictions on what you can do with it. Better yet, you're not obliged to purchase (or download) your apps from a single point as with iTunes, so you won't encounter the 'no naked flesh unless it's Playboy, on which we make money' hypocrisy of Apple, or get your app banned for being better than those that Apple offer.



At the core of the HTC Desire is a 1 Gigahertz processor providing the power

The specifications are great: As well as the 1 GHz processor, you get half a gigabyte of ROM and RAM, with the option to expand the RAM to 32GB via a micro SD card. It comes, of course, with the ability to negotiate four GSM bands, meaning you can use it pretty much anywhere you like in the world. For the data-minded, there's Bluetooth, EDGE, GPRS, 3G and the ubiquitous Wi-Fi. Using the USB cable, you can also 'tether' it, meaning that you can use the phone as a modem when you're out and about.

There's a raft of gadgetry packed into the slim 119 x 60mm case, too. A 5-megapixel camera with face recognition and autofocus, FM radio, accelerometer, light sensor and multimedia playback of audio and video, with all major formats being supported straight out of the box (3gp, wmv, mp4, aac and lots more). In addition, there's a built-in GPS antenna and a copy of Google maps, as well as some nifty features such as the automatic lowering of the ringer volume when picked up, automatic backup of SMS, MMS and Wi-Fi passwords and plenty of options for those addicted to social networking, with Twitter, Flickr and Facebook well catered for in the supplied set of apps.

I would genuinely take one of these over an iPhone any day. OK, the Android OS is updated on a ridiculously frequent basis, but as the updates will slow to around one per year in the near future, there won't be the need to constantly update to stay ahead. Updates are also free, unlike some of Apple's. All in all, this is a pretty little touch-screen marvel that would grace the smartest pocket or bag. Maybe it's the die-hard geek in me, but the company's slogan 'quietly brilliant' seems very appropriate.

www.htc.com

TWEET? MEOW!

Never let it be said that Together doesn't bring you the very bleeding edge of technology. Having cured all the world's ills and discovered an antidote to climate change, scientists have been working round the clock to ensure you know your feline companion is safe and well. Sony (yes, the Playstation people) in conjunction with the University of Tokyo, have produced a cat collar with a built-in accelerometer, camera and GPS. Provisionally named the **Cat@log**, this frankly epoch-defining gizmo will monitor your cat's every move and tweet it to the Twitter web site for you and the whole world to see, in both text and glorious Technicolor photos. Naturally, it doesn't have a huge vocabulary, and instead relies on around eleven pre-defined phrases. So, if your moggy is eating his favourite tin of kangaroo chunks disguised as beef, it might say something like 'yum, this is good'. Of course, this doesn't tell you the cat's inner feelings or mental well-being, but it will soon have a face recognition module so you can tell if Mr Fluffy is hanging out with the bad boys.

Personally, I would much prefer to read the cat's mind and tweet that instead. Imagine the fun of getting a tweet from Tibbles, saying: **"Just got back after a heavy night on catnip. Washed my genitals. Destroyed the sofa. Going to sleep now for sixteen hours".** @

www.sony.com



Seductive sanctuaries

WRITER: KIMBERLEY LOVATO

Cannes, St. Tropez, Cap d'Antibes, Cap-Ferrat, Monte Carlo...for decades these seaside enclaves of the Mediterranean have lured the rich, the famous, and the beautiful. But one need not be a Palm d'Or recipient or Oscar nominee to enjoy the seductive allure of the Riviera. From Monte Carlo to Marseille, there are well-hidden hotels to put the sizzle into a sexy summer getaway.

HOTEL BYBLOS, ST. TROPEZ

The St. Tropez way is to mix luxe with lax and nowhere does it more seamlessly than the iconic hotel **Byblos**, whose doors have swung open for some of the

world's top stars over the years. Mick Jagger even proposed to Bianca on the balcony of a Byblos suite. Night owls flock to the hotel's **Les Caves du Roy**, the international jet set and Hollywood elite's favourite nightclub. Guests of the Byblos are given priority entry to the club when they are not dining at **Spoon**, Alain Ducasse's romantic lantern-lit restaurant or taking advantage

of the sexy couple's message room and the 1,001 Arabian nights private sanctum at the **Sisley Spa**. www.byblos.com

HOTEL CHATEAU DE LA CHEVRE D'OR, EZE

If the hike up to the top of this perched village doesn't take your breath away, the view over the Mediterranean and Cap-Ferrat will. It's simply unparalleled. The **Chateau de la Chèvre d'Or** is a collection of stone village houses, all restored, and strung together along the outer rim of Eze, an ancient hill top village

only a short drive from Monte Carlo. Getting there is half the fun, through cobbled alleyways and hidden corners that beg for stolen kisses. The restaurant is Michelin starred but what makes this hotel shine is its exemplary service and ability to fulfill any wish. Helicopter tour over the Gorge de Verdun? Your own Ferrari for a day? Private yacht to Pampelonne beach? Just ask the 24/7 concierge and like a genie, your wish is his command.

www.chevredor.com

LA MAS DU LANGOUSTIER, PORQUEROLLES

Escape the paparazzi and head to the Isle of Porquerolles, once a pirate hideout, just off the coast of Hyères. What could be more seductive than skinny-dipping in Caribbean blue waters, cycling through rosé vineyards, or strolling hand in hand amongst the savage surroundings? The ultimate stay-in-bed-all-day spot is the **La Mas du Langoustier** tucked between pine and eucalyptus trees on the western part of the island. Boat rentals, secluded beaches, hiking and bike paths, and Provencal inspired dinners at the 1-Michelin-star restaurant make the perfect recipe for an understated romantic getaway that's sizzling hot.

www.langoustier.com



1.

1. Hotel byblos, st. tropez

2. Hotel chateau de la chevre d'or, eze



2.

LA SUITE CASSIS, CASSIS

Subtlety and old Riviera appeal de rigueur at the ancient pastel-coloured port of Cassis. Fishermen still sell sea urchins along the quay, and you can take a boat to the nearby *calanques*, craggy coves with crystal waters that are divine for swimming. **La Suite Cassis** offers something different from your typical hotel experience. This privately owned villa turned 3-room guesthouse has a retro 'rat pack' vibe. If Frank Sinatra had planted his Palm Springs abode on the Mediterranean, it would have looked like La Suite Cassis. Panoramic views of the sea and Cap Canaille dominate, and it's only a five-minute walk to the port. With only three rooms, the hotel feels more like your own private Riviera home. Weekly rates are available, if you need to hide from reality (or your husband) a little longer.

www.lasuitecassis.com

GRAND HOTEL DU CAP-FERRAT, ST. JEAN CAP-FERRAT

The ultimate retreat on the Riviera has to be the legendary **Grand Hotel du Cap-Ferrat**, which overlooks the sea from its privileged position at the tip of the peninsula from which it takes its name. The elite of the elite, from kings and presidents to movie stars and captains of industry, have roamed these hallowed halls. Summer means stepping up your Great Gatsby style, with orchestras and dinner dances, tuxedo clad gents, and fireworks over the Mediterranean. No detail is spared, from the over the top service to the twinkle lights in the trees, and even the beach club, accessible by private funicular, *bien sûr!* It's all part of the fantasy that has kept dreamers returning to this Grande Dame for nearly a century.

www.grand-hotel-cap-ferrat.com @

Why go Thai ?

WRITER: DAVE DERUYTTER

Thailand keeps on attracting huge numbers of tourists, despite its chronic political instability. Our reporter went exploring to find out why.



THE THAI SMILE

It's amazing, the 'Thai Smile' – when boarding Thai Airways or upon arrival in Bangkok, Phuket, or Koh Samui with other

carriers, it puts you immediately at ease and helps you begin decompressing immediately. Expats living in Thailand know that, behind the smile, there maybe other feelings yet, as long as those are not expressed, why bother? The fabulous smile of Thailand's people is by far preferable it to the often machine-like 'How are you today?' greetings used in other parts of the world.

IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT, SPENDING A FEW NIGHTS IN ONE OF THE TOP HOTELS ALONG THE RIVER THAT CROSSES BANGKOK IS MAGICAL

EVERY CHOICE AVAILABLE

The Thai hotel industry is very diverse, from three-star hotels, as you would find in Ibiza to the 'six-star' hotels on the Maldives. For a family of four, with children younger than 12, you will pay from 30-200€ per night, breakfast included.

The former you will find all over Bangkok and in the Kao San Road area, the latter along the Chao Praya river and near the shopping centres of the city centre such as Siam Paragon. If you can afford it, spending a few nights in one of the top hotels along the river that crosses Bangkok is magical.



19 RESIDENCES DEDICATED TO RELAXATION

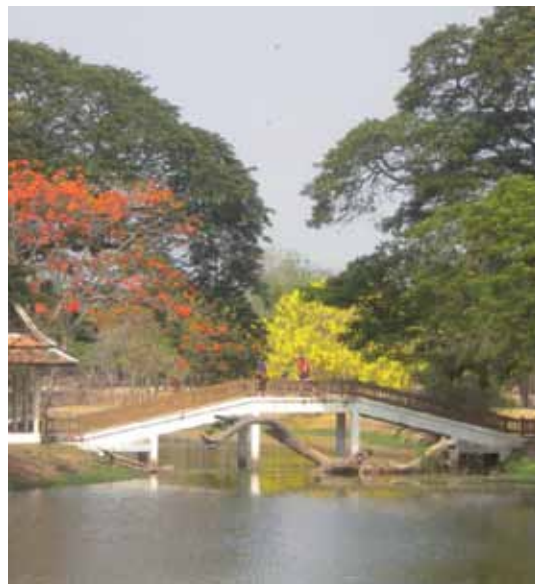
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PLENTY TO SEE AND DO

Thailand has many cultural and historical sites, including Chiang Mai in the north east, Sukhothai and Ayutthaya in the centre and Bangkok itself, to the south. It also has beautiful nature on show, with natural parks, klongs (canals) and rivers, not just in Bangkok but also on the other lowlands. A visit to a floating market is a wonderful, colourful and tasty experience. Bangkok has some great shopping centres to go to, but Thailand's beaches, diving and snorkelling possibilities probably attract the bulk of the tourists, be it in the Pattaya or Hua Hin area, Phuket, on the Phi Phi islands, or around the island of Samui.

RED SHIRTS, YELLOW SHIRTS

Nothing seems to be too much trouble for the well-trained staff in the many hotels, expensive or not. Instability there is, yes, but Thailand is a young democracy, and the troubles are typically not targeted at foreigners

You will probably have heard about the Red Shirts and Yellow Shirts protesters in Thailand – the former are more active of late and there were numerous deaths during clashes with the army in April, including a Japanese cameraman. However, it was the Yellow Shirts who blocked the international airport a few years back. Though this is very regrettable and disturbing, tourists are normally left alone and it is simply a question of not visiting the areas that the protesters occupy – your hotel, or the local English-speaking newspapers, will help you find out.

In conclusion, an amazing experience awaits you in Thailand, including a wide variety of cuisine. Next to mandatory Thai and Western food, you find good Japanese and Indian restaurants available at a very good price-quality ratio. Indeed, the only thing that really costs money on a trip to Thailand from Europe is your ticket – thus, the longer you go, the lower your costs will be in relative terms. Tell your boss! ☺

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Let the sunshine in!

WRITER: JEAN-PIERRE DECREE

Dive into *la douce* France at the hotel and spa La Réserve Ramatuelle, in St Tropez.

Michel Reybier, owner of **La Réserve Ramatuelle** in St Tropez, which opened on 1st June, is proudly at the helm of the latest addition to the La Réserve Group's renovated hotels – they already have pads in Paris and Geneva.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Geneva came first, with its 85 rooms decorated by Jacques Garcia and a 2,000 square-metre wellbeing temple in the shape of its spa, before Paris *est arrivé* – ten prestigious, contemporary apartment rooms near to Place du Trocadéro, with a spectacular view of the

Eiffel Tower. Simply perfect for business or dream leisure breaks, the Paris location was then followed in spring 2009 by a meticulous restoration of a 1970s hotel by the Jean-Michel Wilmotte agency,

which was thus reborn as the La Réserve Ramatuelle, which is to be found just a few minutes away from Saint-Tropez and is also a member of the prestigious Design Hotels Group.

An oasis of calm and serenity in a pine-forest clearing, with a marvellous view of one of the bay's most beautiful

coasts, the hotel site comprises of 12 personalized villas, each equipped with a large garden and private swimming pool, available to rent for a week or longer.

And the hotel also offers 23 rooms, ranging from 50 to 100 square metres, all with a terrace and excellent sea views. The hotel's 1,000 square-metre spa offers 13 care cubicles, indoor and outdoor pools hamam, fitness training and a gourmet restaurant over which Chef Eric Canino presides.

General Manager Nicolas Vincent told Together: "Our aim is that our guests always feel at home. Here, you don't have the high-pressure atmosphere that you often get in so-called glamour hotels, but pure luxury that's to be found just a few minutes outside Saint-Tropez. And, after all, isn't enjoying your holiday at your own pace and rhythm the real definition of luxury?" ☺

La Réserve Ramatuelle

La Quessine
83350 Ramatuelle
France
T. +33 (0)4 9444 9444

www.lareserve-ramatuelle.com
www.designhotels.com



Our man in 'Habana'

WRITER: JEREMY SLATER

A whimsical reminiscence of times spent in Cuba, courtesy of our very own Ernest Hemingway wannabe.

While resting up surrounded by the fading red felt of Il Florida, a well known bar in La Habana Vieja quarter frequented by Ernest Hemingway, late in the afternoon on the second day I was in the city that I thought "Yes, this is a very good place." I was chatting to four Norwegian guys, lined in similar easy chairs along the bar, and they were thinking pretty much the same. So, we continued contentedly to slurp our Cuba Libres, and ordered a couple more.

WE WON THE FIRST TWO GAMES BUT LOST THE LAST ONE AS YOU NEED THE BULL-STRENGTH OF A MARADONA OR THE ATHLETIC SKILLS OF PELÉ TO PLAY WELL ON SAND

succeeded in doing on municipal basketball courts, hot and hard, in the shadow of the colonial walls, cooler, and on the beach, extremely hot and hard as you feel like you are playing through treacle. For the record, we won the first two games but lost the last one as you need the bull-strength of a

Maradona or the athletic skills of Pelé to play well on sand.

If you are less athletically inclined, other daytime activities one can enjoy involve strolls down the sea road, the Malecon, which runs for the entire length of the city, into the older quarters of Vieja and the neighbouring Vedado. A visit to the prince's castle and the revolutionary museums and Capitol Nacional, a replica of Washington DC's capitol building are well worth the effort. Strolling around you will see a remarkable mix of architectural styles from neo-classical, colonial and baroque up to modernist hotels designed by Walter Gropius and Oscar Niemeyer.

CARS ARE THE STARS

If you are there in summer, you will be glad of the few cooling squares to rest in as the temperature will be the normal Caribbean standard of 30 degrees Celsius, but with around 80 degrees of humidity. Sweaty, but good if weight loss is part your holiday ambitions.

Another way to cool off is to hire one of the movable remnants left from the Batista dictatorship, an array of 1950s Chevies, Plymouths and Lincolns. These open-top specimens of a stylish era were mostly left by fleeing US expats and Cubans who didn't fancy discussions about dialectics and didacticism with Fidel Castro or one of his friends when he swept into town on 1st January, 1959. Their arrival was something of a party stopper.



Whole streets in the centre of town are devoted to garage after garage where teams of mechanics improvise with what they have to rebuild pistons, radiators and other engines to keep on the road types of cars that elsewhere have ended either in a specialist museum, Jay Leno's garage or more sadly in the crusher a couple of decades ago. These cars are now used to ferry around happy travellers and tourists to see the sites of the city or head down the coastal road to the nearby beaches.

SOUNDS OF THE CITY

But if you just want to walk the streets popping into the cafes at the Hotel Inglaterra, the Bacardi Building or other similarly splendid constructions, you will find a genuinely friendly city where live music is played in most bars most of the time. As much as how the locals deal with the US embargo with a make and mend policy it is their willingness to enjoy song and dance that shows that though still relatively poor they can deal with any adversity.

Music becomes the soundtrack to your stay in the city, as even when the locals have retreated indoors for their mid-afternoon siesta the streets are still filled with mordant tunes that accompany Latin America's favourite TV soap operas.

The other soundtrack that you will hear constantly is hawkers selling cigars and many other things. Generally, they will leave you alone after a while as there is a high police presence, a reminder that the city might be beautiful and the weather glorious but it is the centre of a one party state and opposition is put down pretty efficiently, as were the recent demonstrations by the Ladies in White.

Despite this, Havana's spirit and its inhabitants seem irrepressible. On my arrival at the national airport I found that the hotel I was meant to be booked into was overbooked. It was late and it seemed that I may be crashing on a bench for the night, but my guide gave me a big conciliatory smile and said: "Don't worry Señor, we'll find a solution, after all this is Havana!" ☺

FACT: FEED, DON'T BREED

As soon as it's safe to return to Thailand, why not make a reservation at Bangkok's groundbreaking eatery, Cabbages & Condoms (or C&C, as they dub themselves)? Forget breath mints or tiny, individually wrapped chocolates on the way out – here, you are treated to free birth control, courtesy of the Population and Community Development Association. Five people can eat from a tantalizing set menu for 700 baht (17.50€), and will all receive a free condom on the way out. Obviously, the food is something special and, in case you're wondering, there is no cabbage on the menu.

www.cabbagesandcondoms.com

FIGURES: E160a, E296

E-numbers are demonized throughout Europe as being 'bad for health' or even 'carcinogenic', depending on which publications you are inclined to read. This belief is largely untrue, however. Lack of understanding is the main problem, as only the shock stories and worst-case scenarios ever hit the pages of the tabloids. Would you purposefully ingest something containing such chemicals as 2-methoxy-4-vinylphenol, 4-ethylguaiaicol, 2,3-diethyl-5-methylpyrazine, 3-methyl-2-butene-1-thiol, 3-mercapto-3-methylbutan-1-ol and 3-methyl-2-butenal? No? Well, you'd be missing out, because these flavours are just a small selection of the 1,000 verified chemicals contained just in the aroma of a cup of coffee. It's also worth bearing in mind that many E numbers are naturally occurring (vitamins, acids, colours) and that at least 30 have no known toxicity level. Have a deeper look into the world of food additive and content labelling, you may be surprised. Oh, and the numbers mentioned at the beginning?

Carotene (which actually helps prevent some cancers) and malic acid – both of which you'll find in a fresh tomato.

www.exploreenumbers.co.uk

REPORTAGE

A matter of Clicktrust

Unless you happen to have been living under a rock for the past 10 years, or still use the *Yellow Pages* to find a restaurant or the nearest cinema, you will have noticed how times have changed with the advent of search engines and social media – *Together* talks to a Brussels-based expert.

More and more business owners and political institutions are realizing that a successful online marketing strategy is crucial to their marketing campaigns. The end of 2009 showed a record high in online spending – 6.3\$ billion for Q4, which represents the most that has ever been spent on online advertising in a single quarter, according to the Internet Advertising Bureau (IAB).



TRACKING CHANGES

"The biggest difference between traditional media and online media such as search engine marketing and social-media marketing is the manner in which every cent can be tracked to result. During the challenging financial times we have experienced recently, tracking has become more important than ever when it comes to advertising," explains **Fabian Van De Wiele**, owner of web-marketing agency Clicktrust Marketing.

"We offer complete online marketing packages, including search engine marketing, website analysis, campaigns on social media such as **Facebook** and **Linkedin**, all with a solid reporting that allows the client to understand exactly what they are spending money on."

SOCIAL-MEDIA GROWTH

Even though search engine optimization and search engine marketing is expected to grow in 2010, social-media marketing is expected to grow much faster. As Van de Wiele explains: "Business owners have started realizing that they can't depend entirely on a search engine ranking. If Google drops your website by five positions, you don't want to be losing any sleep over that."

"Clicktrust Marketing combines specific online marketing techniques without losing the bigger picture or merely relying on a single source of web traffic – looking at the amazing success of the online campaign that Barack Obama ran in the US, it's just a question of time before the EU also takes full advantage of the web's capacities." ☺

For more information on online marketing and strategy, visit www.clicktrust-marketing.be, or contact Fabian on +32 (0)485 981 858.

Belgium back in business?

WRITER: ANDY CARLING

The upcoming Belgian Presidency of the European Union is giving the nation an opportunity to strut about on the world stage.



Traditionally, member states have seen the EU Presidency as a time to aim a little higher than petty national concerns, or so they have frequently claimed. In reality, it is a time to try to impose petty national concerns on your fellow Europeans. There is also the awkward question – what purpose, exactly, does the rotating presidency serve?

HOW MANY PRESIDENTS?

If the EU has achieved anything, it must be the proliferation of Presidents – we

have more than a Papal funeral. We've got a president for all occasions, from the jovial José Manuel Durão Barroso (European Commission), who can jolly everyone along, to Jerzy Buzek (European Parliament), who never turns an invitation down and can offer gravitas to any occasion, no matter how humble and then, of course, there's Haiku Hermie Van Rompuy, Belgium's very own President of the European Council. He's especially good for occasions where you don't want to wake the children. There are a whole host of others, but these are the big three.

As Belgium takes the rotating presidency, we should bear in mind a couple of points, and then we shall see how only Belgium can fulfil the role required. Firstly, it's important for rotating presidencies not to get carried away. Some will always try to dominate the agenda, but the best presidencies are those that have concentrated on sweeping up after the previous holder initiated a series of vanity projects that served no purpose. It's also considered fair to postpone any difficult decisions to the next holder. In fact, a presidency can get away with doing very little indeed, as long as they master the really important part of the job; the ceremonial aspect.

STANDING ON CEREMONY

This is where a certain low cunning helps. A wily president can regard the six-month stint as having a dual purpose; raising his or, very rarely, her, profile on the international stage and having as luxurious a time as possible – it's not so much the

'Gravy Train' as the 'Caviar Carousel'. Here are some tips – the obvious one is to hold summits in interesting and exciting places, there's a reason that Charleroi isn't a venue. Look at the most exclusive places in Europe for gatherings. Less well exploited is the opportunity to visit fantastic places out of

the Union, as a representative – why not consider the virtues of island-hopping in the Pacific, to highlight your concern over rising sea levels, or perhaps reach out to Europe's cultural heritage by visiting the Caribbean? And please remember that we're talking about the beaches of Barbados, not somewhere like Haiti, which is a bit icky. Claim that you're avoiding Port au Prince, as you don't want to interfere in

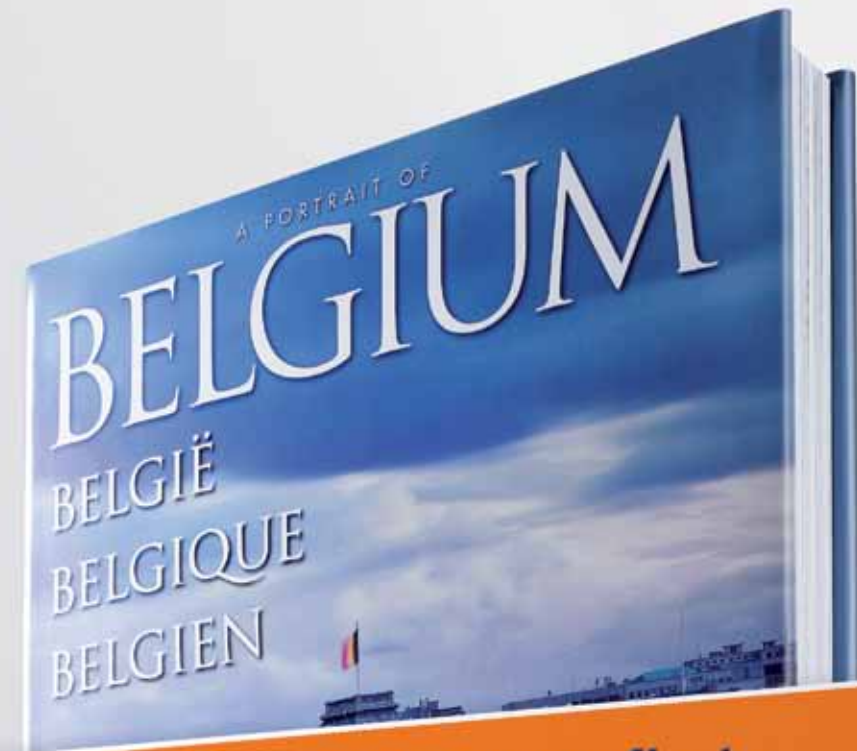
the humanitarian interventions. Just be sure to remember to throw something to the punters – the Roman empire lasted as long as it did, not because of military might or excellence in administration, but for a principle that still holds true today; bread and circuses. This is a great idea, not just because of its sheer immorality, but because it can actually perform a useful function – frankly, there seems little purpose to the presidency as a political entity, so why not turn it into a celebratory role? After all, we've seen how the vaunted diversity of Europe leads not to a flowering of a glorious pan-Europeanism, but to a descent into mediocrity, the cultural gutter of Eurovision and TV commercials that appear badly dubbed because they're going to be translated into various languages.

RING THE CHANGES

Belgium is superbly placed to fight this bland nonsense. First of all, the Belgian presidency should ban the use of *Ode to Joy*, the dirge-like anthem of the EU and played to eternally suffering audiences. Instead, why not replace it with Jaques Brel and *Ne me quitte pas*? Far more appropriate. Secondly, replace those silly yellow stars with the Manneken Pis. A much better visual identity, and a suitable allegory on how the EU regards its citizens.

We should have a music festival that features Belgium's contributions – from jazz, which wouldn't exist without M. Adolphe Sax, to the popular singers of the 1950s to the latest from the young folk, who produce what I am assured is 'banging' techno'. I'm not sure I want to know what that is, but let them have their fun. There is so much more that could be done, given the rich cultural life of this, the most damp of nations. Come on, let's just ignore the politics and have some damn good fun. What could be more Belgian than that? ④

**COME ON, LET'S
JUST IGNORE
THE POLITICS
AND HAVE
SOME DAMN
GOOD FUN.
WHAT COULD
BE MORE
BELGIAN THAN
THAT?**



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www.ing.be/expat



Don't warm to cold callers

WRITER: GRAHAM REID

Our expert follows up on a number of enquiries from expats about unsolicited phone calls from persons purporting to be investment advisers.

An interesting press release was issued on 10th July 2009 by the Jersey Financial Services Commission concerning unsolicited phone calls, strongly recommending not to enter into an

investment solely based on such an approach. In particular, the Jersey authorities point out that organizations that use cold-calling methods may not have the necessary licence in their own jurisdiction and may even be involved in illegal investment schemes that may result in investors losing their money. The Belgian Banking Commission's website, www.cbfa.be, contains a similar warning, so do not hesitate to complain to them.

COVER STORY

Even if such companies are properly licensed, it is quite common for the so-called investment adviser to have only had a few weeks' training in selling techniques before being

launched on the unsuspecting public. Do not judge such a company or salesperson solely on the quality of their promotional material, as this will always be first class. Let's face it – if the company was that good, they would not need to cold-call in order to build up their business, their reputation in the market would do the job for them.

Even if the company that has called you is properly regulated, there are still a number of factors that need to be kept in mind. Many of the advisers working for such companies are commission salesmen, whose remuneration or bonuses depend on the term over which you have committed to contribute money, multiplied by the monthly amount. They are not interested in recommending you to invest in non-contractual schemes, because they don't earn any money from them. So, if you can be persuaded to invest in a contractual scheme for 20 years, you will pay for the salesman's commission through heavy charges in the early years based on the full term. Even if you stop after a few years, those charges will continue to be levied and the value of your plan will not increase.

IT IS QUITE COMMON FOR THE SO-CALLED INVESTMENT ADVISER TO HAVE ONLY HAD A FEW WEEKS' TRAINING IN SELLING TECHNIQUES BEFORE BEING LAUNCHED ON THE UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC



HOW TO INVEST

Use regulated advisers only. These should focus on your attitude to risk at an early stage in the interview, and this is not the danger that your portfolio will totally disappear overnight, but rather that it will

be subject to a level of volatility with which you are not comfortable. Many advisers use a formal questionnaire that will help to identify your risk tolerance, but it is not as simple as it seems. I never cease to be surprised by the number of individuals who profess during an interview to be very tolerant to risk, but who panic the very first time that markets fall, so this is a really important first step.

THOSE THAT CAN, DO

Be aware that investment volatility in a regular savings plan will have a negligible

effect on the end result, because you will be benefiting from a low price when the markets are depressed. Unless you are near to retirement age, you will probably get a better long-term return from investing in more volatile areas, such as

the stock markets.

On the other hand, if you are investing some of your hard-earned capital, you will probably wish to avoid undue volatility, so the creation of a portfolio with a balanced distribution of investments becomes much more important.

If you do act through a regulated adviser, be fair. Most have clients who had previously refused to entertain the idea of investing in the UK stock market but keep on complaining that their investments have not kept pace with the Footsie 100 Index when it has risen.

Do not assume that recommendations that appear on internet forums concerning investments are written by experts, as usually they are not. You will have no recourse against the authors afterwards, and they may also have a hidden agenda of which you are unaware. People who cannot do things themselves seem to write blogs instead – I remember those on the BBC website concerning cricketers selected to play for England, and the players who were most criticized ended up being among the few to garner significant tallies of runs. There, I knew I would come round to a 'summer' theme eventually! ☺

I NEVER CEASE TO BE SURPRISED BY THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PROFESS DURING AN INTERVIEW TO BE VERY TOLERANT TO RISK, BUT WHO PANIC THE VERY FIRST TIME THAT MARKETS FALL

Liège discoveries

WRITER: ERIC BOSCHMAN

Our renowned sommelier ventures further afield in search of fine dining.



JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

A history of passion, happiness and simplicity – the produce of the kitchen here is invariably fresh and of the highest quality. The Pyrenees lamb, asparagus, Colonnata bacon, young carrots and aubergine, to name but a few of the delicacies on offer, are all worthy of a royal signature. Speaking of passion, this restaurant is exceptional, with the simplest, most charming décor, it resembles nothing so much as a well-appointed middle-class abode in the countryside. The wine list is very much in the hands of the lady of the house, a sommelière who delights in sharing her abundant knowledge. The selection is first rate, including more than a few little known gems, which represent an excellent price-pleasure ratio. To be enjoyed without prejudice.

Au Vieux Tribunal

Rue d'Yernawe, 1
4537 Verlaine
T. +32 (0)4 259 60 15
www.auvieuxtribunal.com

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime.

Lunch: Three courses 30€, 50€ with wine.

Brunch: Three courses, 35€, 55€ with wine.

Average cost per person: 60€

WINE TIMES

Vin sur Vin is one of a kind – the restaurant does not suggest yesterday, or even the day before yesterday, but seemingly makes a point almost of being beyond classification. Try, if you will, the Obama steak, which weighs 1.2 kilos, and is marinated with maple syrup and bourbon – definitely for sharing! In short, as you may have already guessed, you don't come here looking for a plate of salad, served with a low-calorie drink. And, when it comes to the plonks, you are in the hands of a real expert, with the owner doubling up as a wine merchant. Thus, there is a very attractive wine list available, with some really lucky finds from both sides of the Atlantic on offer, at the right prices. Maybe not quite a ten-out-of-ten restaurant, but definitely worth a visit. 🍷

Vin sur Vin

Place du marché, 9
4000 Liège
T. +32 (0)4 223 28 13

Closed Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes and national holidays.

Average cost per person: 40€

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Alternative 'sparklers'

WRITER: GERALD LOFTUS

We take a look at OTC (Other Than Champagne) bubbly.

WHAT WILL
THEY DO IF
CLIMATE
CHANGE
ALLOWS THE
YEOMEN
OF SUSSEX
TO START
PLANTING
CHAMPAGNE
VINES?

Contrarian though it may be – after an entire *Together* issue (Number 15) devoted to champagne™,®,© etc. – I hereby choose to write about alternative forms of bubbly. Purists and defenders of the varietals grown in a strictly-defined region of northeast France

will say that the stuff that Formula One winners routinely douse each other with is only champagne™, ®... oh, I give up... if it comes from their *terroir*. Fair enough. If Ethiopia can wage a fair-trade campaign against multinational coffee chains for unfairly marketing their beans, then the burghers of Reims should be able to defend their *bifteck* too. But what will they do if climate change allows the yeomen of Sussex to start planting champagne vines?

While we let them battle it out, let us consider non-Champagne bubbly.

BEERS FOR YEARS

Ever since *Young Einstein* succeeded in splitting the beer atom to create bubbles (if you haven't seen the classic 1989 Australian comedy by and starring Yahoo Serious, get thee to a DVD shop) and ever since man succeeded in brewing hops, yeast, barley, and water, beer has been the preferred way to a bubble-fix. I cannot tell you how happy I was to see beer

bottles as big as champagne magnums on sale in Belgian supermarkets. As longtime residents will attest, Brussels doesn't serve industrial-strength (meaning watered-down) beer of the American sort, nor canned poison of the lager-lout variety. Belgian beer is 'à déguster', and as a customs agent once told my son, whose car boot was full of it returning to university in France, it is "for connoisseurs".

But beer is not to everyone's taste, as legions of shandy-drinking ladies will attest. And, this being *Together*, there's no point me wasting valuable column space on beer when you know that we'll probably devote an entire issue to it soon (after 'Bubbles & Bijoux', how about 'Beer & Body Piercings'?).

RHUBARB, RHUBARB

What if you want bubbly, can't afford the real thing, but want to celebrate in style? Mademoiselle, may I interest you in a case of *crémant*? France produces plenty of it, and it's basically sparkling wine, usually white. Belgium's **Les Vins de Roisin** also produces an excellent – hold on to your chair – *rhubarb* bubbly, 'l'Effervescence de Roisin', which must be tasted to be believed (tip: it also goes very well with chocolatey desserts).

You may also know of the Italian sparklies Asti Spumante and Prosecco, or the Spanish Cava, which the uninformed lump together as generic 'champagne'.

Tsk, tsk. We know better. Babycham Ltd. used to advertise its little bottles as "the original girlie drink," officially a perry, made as it is from perry pears, though it does have that "cham" suffix (it's those bubbles).

If Babycham wants to identify with champagne, cider has no such pretensions. Open a bottle of good Norman or Breton apple cider, and it does go pop, just like that other C drink. Its alcohol content is minimal (less than most Belgian beers), but 'brut' cider, at less than €3.00 a bottle, can be a very decent beverage with some dishes. I won't address the merits, if any, of grape-juice bubbly ('non-alcoholic champagne' is served, apparently, in hospitals), and I leave it to the daring to get their kicks from the effervescent energy drinks out there, which just might stop your heart, if mixed with the hard stuff.

SWORD PLAY

Oh yes, it has been scientifically proven – it is all in the bubbles. Researchers, writing in the respected journal *PNAS* (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences), used a High Definition Mass Spectrometer to prove that the bubbles in champagne are particularly effective in carrying flavour and aroma to the surface and on to the nostrils, a phenomenon that's just not available in all those flat wines. The scientists, as it happened, were from the University of Champagne-Ardenne in Reims. And you thought I was kidding about Einstein splitting the beer atom...

Finally, those Formula One drivers, with their crass champagne-spraying antics, need to see how it's really done. For a class act, get a French military officer to open your bubbly supply the right way. Create a sensation – but be prepared for a modicum of breakage – and have

someone with a properly Gallic name like "Commandant Thierry du Toit" sabre your Taittinger. He'll probably have to bring his own sabre, and be sure your guests give him more than a sword's breadth of room to slash bottle tops. *A votre santé!*

www.lesvinsderoisin.be

Our man Gerald, whom regular readers will know from his *Gerald's Gaze* column, is also going places – specifically to Tangier in Morocco, where exciting new opportunities await. Of course, he will still be providing articles for *Together*, and be sure to check out the regular updates on his **Avuncular American** blog at <http://avuncularamerican.typepad.com> ☺



Jet-set nights in Monaco

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Monaco? *Magnifique!*

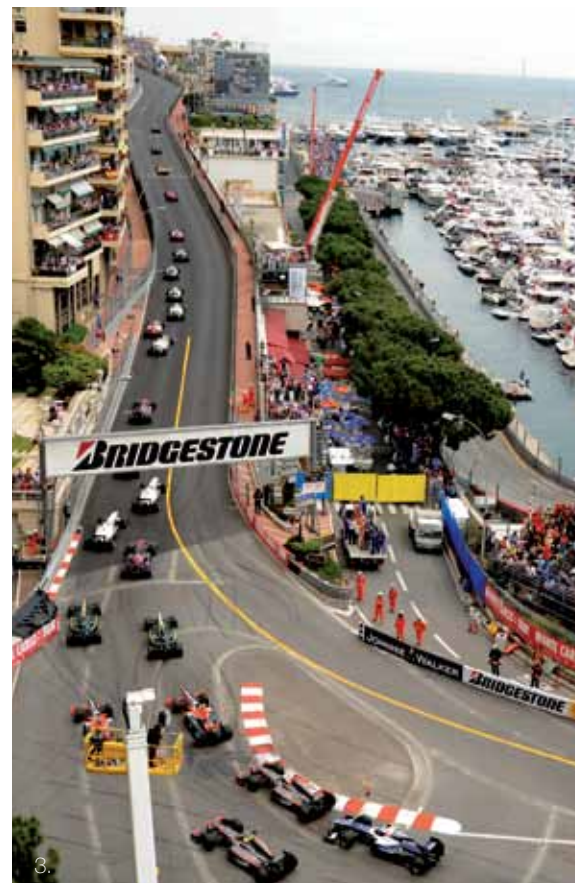
1.

1. For the fourth year, **MARTINI** and **Amber Lounge Fashion** organized an exclusive fashion event during the Monaco Formula one Grand Prix 2010, which took place on 13-16th May. Amber Fashion, supporting the Elton John AIDS Foundation, is the annual event at which Formula One drivers swap the pitstops for the catwalk, to become models for one night only – the show, which took place before a fund-raising auction and exclusive party saw collections by headliners **Missoni**, **Elizabeth Hurley Beach** and **Jimmy Choo** taking to the piste, and guests were able to enjoy the delicious MARTINI cocktails, created by Global Brand Ambassador Giuseppe Gallo.



2.

2. On the eve of what was the 68th Monaco Grand Prix, the *Signora del Vento* was docked in Monte Carlo harbour, and played host to the **Mandela Day Black Moon Benefit Gala** organized by Lancia and attended **HRH Prince Albert**. The Gala was the first of three benefit events organized by Lancia and Mandela Day – on 18th July, there will be a special concert held in Madrid to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday and, during the Venice Film Festival, from 1st to 10th September, a special Lancia Delta Hard Black car, signed by all the guests who have attended the events, will go the largest donor.



3.

1. © Image.net
2. © Image.net
3. © Stéphanie Cornfield
4. © Hugo Boss press office

3. During the run-up to this year's Monaco Grand Prix, the international fashion and lifestyle company **HUGO BOSS** invited 300 guests to its exclusive annual dinner party. The theme of the event was **Nuit d'Azur**. The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team's two star drivers, **Lewis Hamilton** and **Jenson Button**, spent a glamorous evening in the unique atmosphere of the Key Largo Villa, which forms a feature of the quay wall in the picturesque port of Cap d'Ail. After dinner, **DJ Alex Wolf** was spinning the perfect party atmosphere. As an official partner to the Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team, HUGO BOSS has been firing up the spectacular Monaco Grand Prix weekend with its traditional party for 30 years.



4.

4. Following last year's party in Cannes, the **DSquared** identical-twin brothers **Dean** and **Dan Caten** were in great form as hosts at **The Billionaire**, Flavio Briatore's club in the Fairmont Hotel. Briatore and his wife Elisabetta, who wore a delightful strapless black dress, were also on hand to welcome the Monaco jet-set this year, which included **Boris Becker** and his wife **Lady Victoria Hervey**, who wore a DSquared creation.



5. LA TERRASSE DE L'HIPPODROME

21st July, a corner of summer paradise is to be found at La Terrasse De l'Hippodrome in Brussels - for the seventh year, Simply Better will provide the palm trees, the roses, the cocktails, and the chance to socialize in an environment that gives new meaning to 'class'.

In addition, Restaurant Vittel will also be open every day on La Terrasse - from

noon to midnight, come and sample the finest cuisine. Frankly, it's what summer was made for! ☺

La Terrasse

Chaussée de La Hulpe, 51-53

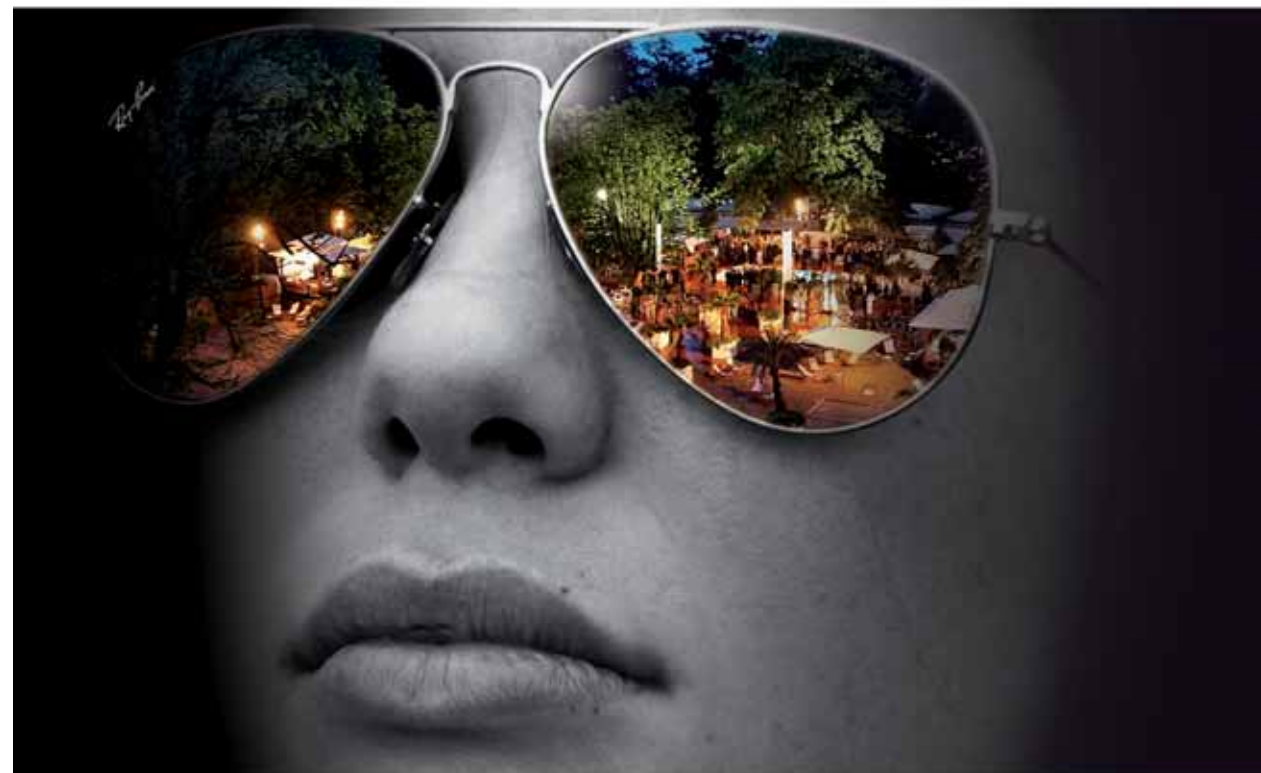
1180 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 354 72 00

www.la.terrasse.be



PRESENTE



La terrasse

DE L'HIPPODROME

11 JUIN - 21 JUILLET 2010

WWW.LA-TERRASSE.BE



We've arrived!

Our regular round-up of the best and brightest new boutiques.

1. LILÙ

In the summer of 2004, Emanuelle Adam and Isabelle Gérardin launched their exciting brand lilù onto the Belgian market, offering a collection of timeless, beautiful hand-crafted handbags and fashion accessories, all made from the highest-quality materials. Well, lilù lovers can rejoice – their brand new outlet opened its doors in early June. Enjoy.

lilù

*Rue du Bailli, 9
1000 Brussels
T.+32 (0) 2 511 20 50
www.lilu.be*



2. MASSMACHELEN VILLAGE

Not so much a 'Fresh Opening', more a new way of getting there; Maasmechelen Village has begun a new shuttle service from Maastricht and Brussels to the village – every Saturday and Sunday from 19th June to 5th September, clients will be warmly welcomed in the fully branded Maasmechelen Village 5 Star Shopping Express deluxe buses. The outlet village, with more than 95 designer boutiques featuring more than 150 designer brands is renowned for its exceptional facilities, which elevate the shopping experience. A free and customer-friendly car park, multilingual staff and an information centre, children's play areas, a kennel to look after your dog, various superb restaurants and cafes and even a personal shopper and stylist service all allow clients to truly enjoy a unique day's shopping. Your transport awaits – for more information and to reserve your seats, go to www.maasmechelenvillage.com



3. SANDRINA FASOLI

After six years, high-class fashion marque Sandrina Fasoli has opened the first Brussels boutique to bear its name – and such joys, from amazing accessories to scintillating shoes, lie within. Set to open in August, the outlet combines zest with classical elegance – timeless, yet completely contemporary.

Sandrina Fasoli

*Place Brugmann, 22
1050 Brussels
T.+32 (0)475 472 661
www.sandrinafasoli.com*



4. MAC

MAC opens a new store in Knokke on the first of July – the world's best cosmetics in Belgium.

MAC

*Kustlaan, 41
Knokke
www.maccosmetics.fr*



BUILDING AN ART FORM

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

“There does not exist, either in the past or in the present, a work of architecture which is accepted and recognized as excellent from the aesthetic point of view which is not also excellent from a technical point of view.”

These were the words spoken by Pier Luigi Nervi during his Charles Eliot Norton lecture at Harvard. Nervi's may not be a name that leaps readily to mind, unless you're an architect or an engineer. Don't be misled by his low public profile, though. It's safe to say that the world of construction and architecture would not have been the same without the input of this visionary man – a man dubbed 'The King of Concrete'.

It was concrete and its manipulation that particularly appealed to Nervi. He invented new ways to reinforce it and to create pre-formed sections to enable buildings to be not only aesthetically pleasing, but also rigid and strong, thanks to 'ferro-crete' (*ferro-cemento*), an invention of Nervi's own. He was so avant garde that he recalled some years after he finished his first project (a small cinema in Naples in 1927) that some other architects were certain "my building would cave in for lack of proper support".

A new exhibition, celebrating the life and work of Nervi is here in Brussels from now until 8th August, before embarking on a worldwide tour. Speaking to his grandson Marco – also director of the expo, which is entitled *l'Architecture Comme Défi*, I learned that Nervi "led an austere life and sacrificed a lot to pursue his passion". Very much the artist then – although he would have preferred to have been remembered as an engineer. He once said: "I am a builder. I am no artist. People tell me some of my designs are beautiful, and I am glad. But I don't aim at beauty."

Like it or not, I think these designs prove he was very much the consummate professional in both fields. 🏗️

CIVA
Rue de l'Ermitage, 55
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 642 24 50
www.civa.be



© Mario Carrieri



© Mario Carrieri



SF: Smath, Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/spam/>)



© Oscar Savio

Together's 'To Do' list

Let *Together* take you through to *la rentrée* with our selection of cultural, fun events.

ECRAN TOTAL To September

Escape from the noise, heat and dust of summer in one of Brussels' coolest cinemas which, this year as every year, will be screening four films per day, starting at 14h in the dog days. Enjoy the protective darkness of the Ecran Total cinema festival, where screenings will include new releases, retrospectives, classics and children's favourites.

Arenberg Galleries

Galerie de la Reine, 26
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 512 80 63
www.arenberg.be

MIDIS-MINIMES 2010 01.07>27.08

The Minimes church plays host each year to the Midis-Minimes Festival – an ideal chance to indulge your musical passions, as the church's superb acoustics reverberate to the sounds of baroque, choral or jazz. Monday to Friday, all summer.

Eglise des Minimes

Rue des Minimes, 62
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 527 38 47
www.midis-minimes.be

URBAN BBQ 23.08

So much more than charred sausages and warm beer, Urban BBQ is an outdoor meat-grilling feast held annually in the centre of Brussels. Carnivores more than welcome – allow some Michelin-starred chefs to satisfy your cravings for flesh, served around a huge, friendly communal table. It goes without saying that *Together's* very own Eric Boschman is involved – why not pop by, grab a bite and say hello?

Mont Des Arts

Albertinaplein
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 375 96 08
www.urbanbbq.be

FIESTA LATINA 27>29.08

Returning for its 7th edition, this festival is a unique opportunity for all to discover the traditions, rhythms, colours and flavours of Latin-America, from Cuba to the Bahamas, Venezuela to Mexico via Colombia, Honduras, the Canal of Panama, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Guadeloupe, the beat goes on down Avenue Louise.

Avenue Louise

Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 741 63 20
www.fiesta-latina.be



1. Beer Weekend

2. Car Free Sunday

3. Afterwork Shopping

BEER WEEKEND 03>05.09

Ah, it's that magical time of the year when the tents are raised and the Grand'Place is transformed into an altar to what the Belgians do best – ale. There will be more than 50 breweries hawking their wares, and the prices are more than reasonable. Seriously – how can you resist?

Grand'Place

1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 511 49 87

www.belgianbeerweekend.be

Open Friday 18-21h, Saturday 11-22h, Sunday 11-20h.

CAR FREE SUNDAY 19.09

What a wonderful day – now an established part of Brussels' events calendar, Car Free Sunday sees motor vehicles virtually removed from the roads from 9-19h. See the city come alive with food stalls, street performers and eco-friendly modes of

transport, and why not rent yourself and family a bike or two? Enjoy, because the day is soon over.

Mobility Week

T. +32 (0)2 204 13 43

www.brussels.be

AFTERWORK SHOPPING

From June onwards, more than 300 of Brussels' best shops will be keeping their doors open longer, every Thursday evening. What better way to relax, after work, than a visit to the shops at your leisure? It's a great opportunity to take advantage of an evening's shopping, far away from the bustle of the weekend – shops will be open in Grand'Place, Saint-Jacques (to Place Fontainas), Vismet (Sainte-Catherine, Quai au Bois à Brûler, Quai aux Briques, first part of Rue de Flandre), Dansaert (Rue Dansaert to Rue Léon Lepage, Saint-Géry, and the first part of Rue des Chartreux). For more information, go to www.shopinbrussels.be



Going 25 hours with 'Herbie'

WRITER: JOHN SHERIDAN

Heading into its 14th year, the VW Fun-Cup expects to attract more than 30,000 spectators to its 25-hour non-stop race at Spa-Francorchamps on 10th and 11th July.

For the annual showpiece, 160 cars will be taking to the track. All cars are built to exactly the same specifications, with specially adapted vehicles also in place for disabled participants. Each has a maximum speed of 180 kilometres per hour, is equipped to carry passengers, and is designed in the style of the famous VW Beetle ('Herbie', for the uninitiated). Truly, they are an iconic sight when lined up at the beginning of the race – all cars are designed and built in Belgium, and there are national competitions in other European countries as well.

BEETLE MANIA

The event is the brainchild of three friends, J.G Mal-Voi, Franz Dubois and Pascal Whitmayer. As Mal-Voi explains: "We wanted to find a safe, cheap way for anyone to have the opportunity to experience motor racing. Karting was becoming very popular at the time, but we were looking for a safer alternative and we have managed to uphold this part of our plan as the worst injuries we have had thus far in fourteen years is a couple of broken arms."

It costs 1,000€ per hour to rent one of these cars for a race and can be divided between eight drivers for the 25-hour race. Although this may sound expensive, in the context of motor sport it is an extremely cheap opportunity to race on tracks where greats such as Senna and Schumacher have previously plied their trade. If, however, 25,000€ proves too expensive, there are other shorter races throughout the year.

In a sport that is dominated by men, it is refreshing to see some women drivers including former Belgian Judo Olympian Ingrid Berghmans, mixing it up with the guys.

It's a great family day out, with full access to the cars and some of the drivers – there is also a supervised child-friendly area, and opportunities for the lucky few to experience the race themselves as a passenger for a few laps. Check out www.funcup.be for further details. 📞



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Founder:
Jérôme Stéfanski

Publisher:
David Mc Gowan

Managing Editors:
James Drew & Colin Moors: www.readright.be
james@togethermedia.eu/T. +32 (0)473 951 137
colin@togethermedia.eu/T. +32 (0)0475 351 505

Sales advisor:
Gilly Maxim: gilly@togethermedia.eu

Writers:

Natasha Abudarham/Eric Boschman/Dave Deruytter/
James Drew/Richard Earney/Federico Grandesso/
Kimberley Lovato/David Mc Gowan/Colin Moors/
Armand Richelet-Kleinberg/John Sheridan/Jeremy Slater

Video director:

Armand Richelet-Kleinberg:
www.camera-man.weebly.com

Photographer:

Yvan Barbera: www.reflexstar.com

Design:

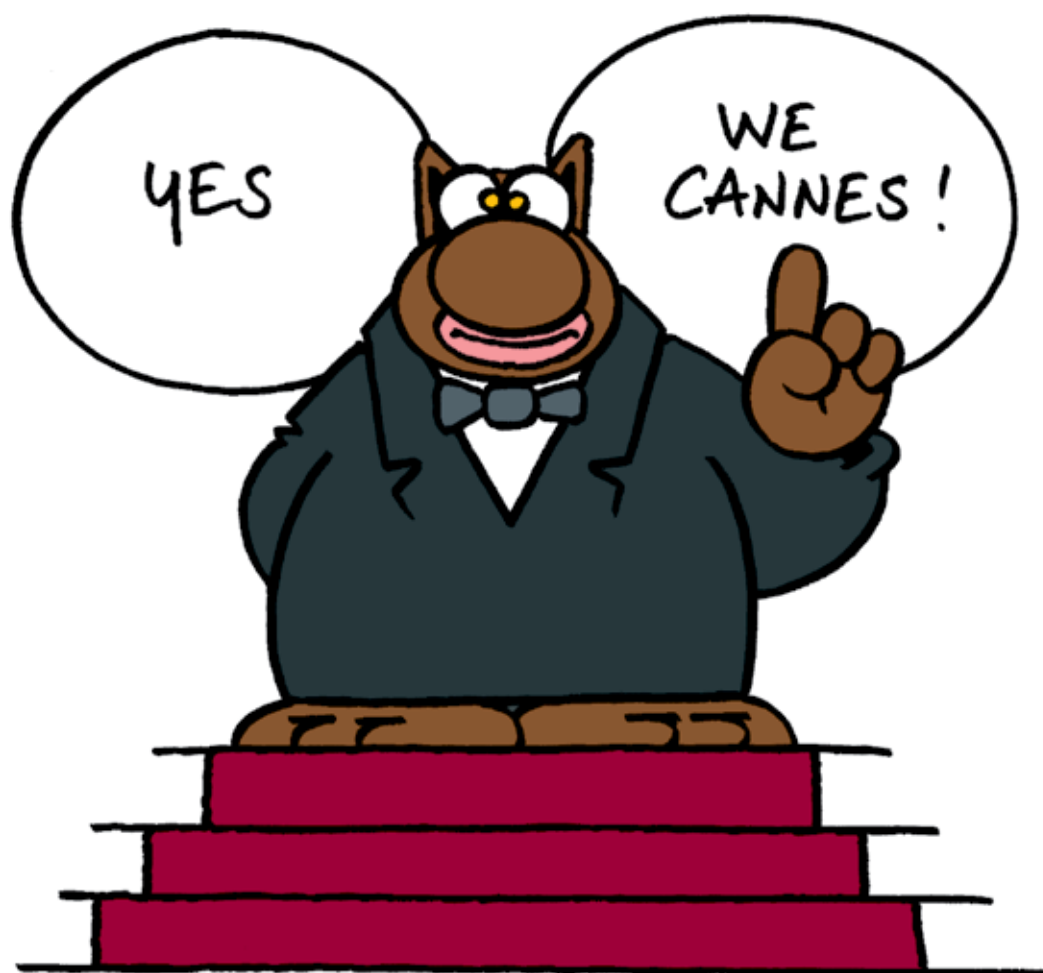
Studio LetMeSee - Yves Reynaert
T. +32 (0)496 723 950
hello@studioletmesee.be - www.studioletmesee.be

Together Media

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B-1040 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 400 00 24
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Festival feline

He was there too.



We create

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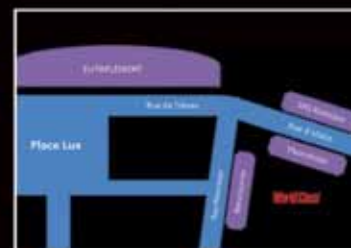


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You'll find all you need, from a wide variety of classes, modern machines, flexible opening hours, transparent all in prices and free towels.

This summer, Worldclass offers you a unique Summer Pass for an all-in price of 99 Euro. For this amount, you can use all the facilities, all day long, every day of the week till 1 September. There are no further charges to be paid. If you decide to become a more permanent member after that, we won't charge you any joining fees if you already have purchased this pass.

World Class Fitness Center

Clos du Parnasse 10b, in Thon Residence, opposite of SAS EU Hotel
1050 Brussels | Phone: +32 2 503 15 57 | brussels@worldclass.be
www.worldclass.be

WorldClass
FITNESS CENTER

ACQUA DI GIÒ



GIORGIO ARMANI